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AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

JUL-AUG 2015

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TROVE
CORRECTIONS
SHARES HIS TIPS AND TRICKS

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GAOL
RECORDS

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CRIMINALS OR
LEGENDS?

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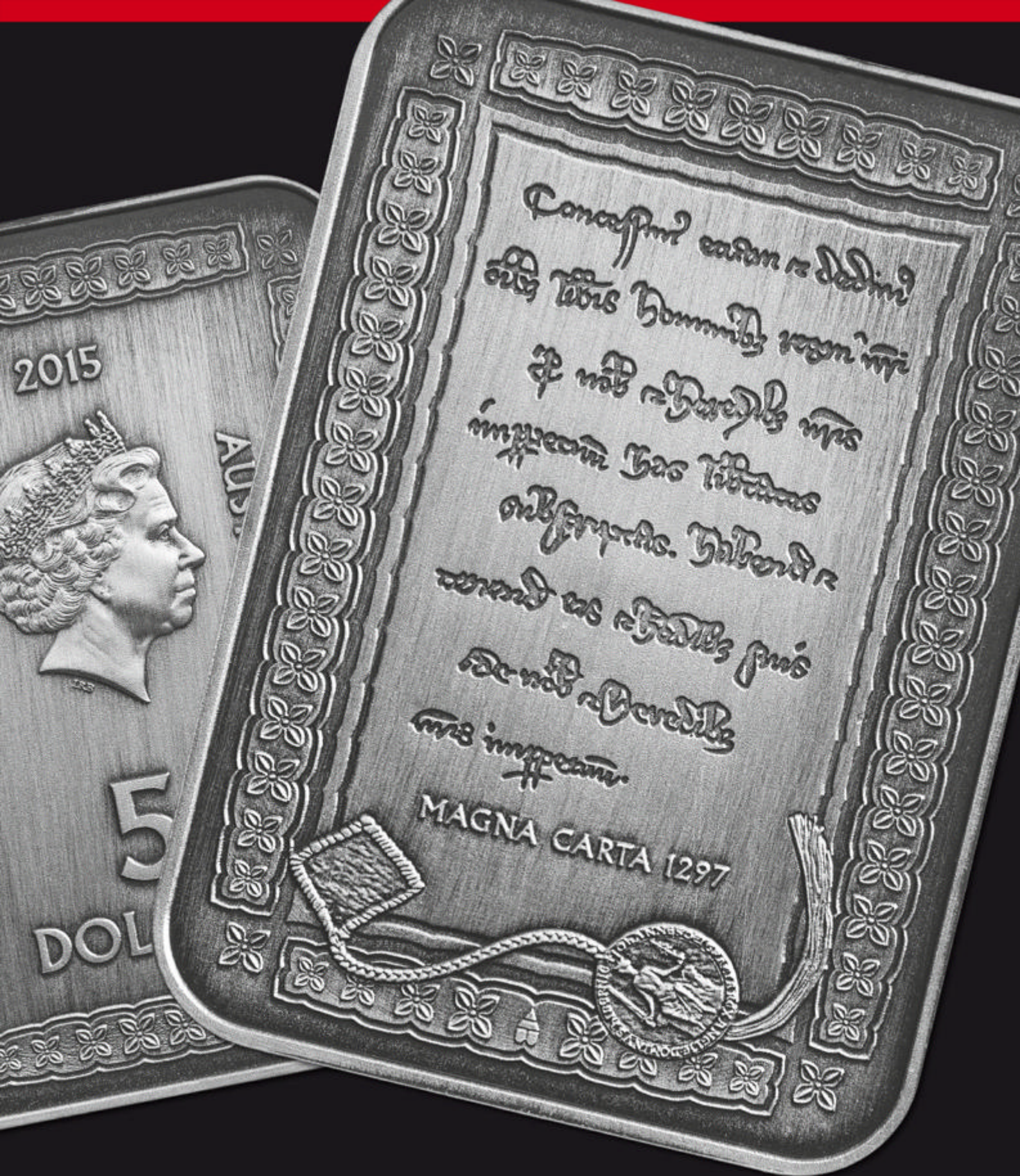
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Contents



32



36



62



44



16

Issue 29, Jul-Aug 2015

On the cover

16 **Ask our experts**

Inside History's resident genealogist, Shauna Hicks, helps a reader uncover gaol records

32 **Studying the past: Choosing the right course for you**

Take your love of genealogy even further with our essential guide to the best family history courses around

36 **Bushrangers: Deadly criminals or folk heroes?**

In the first of our debate series, we ask two authors for their opinion on this age-old argument

44 **The Corrector: An insider's guide to Trove**

Meet the man behind 3.26 million lines of corrections on Trove, and discover how he's linking them to Ancestry's 70 million online family trees as well

62 **Win an Ancestry DNA package!**

Want to discover even more about your ancestors? You can with an Ancestry DNA and World Heritage Membership, and we have three to give away!

your family

41 **30 days of family history**

August is National Family History Month, a celebration of all things genealogy. Explore what's on near you

48 **Half sailor, half soldier**

In an extract from his new book, naval historian David Stevens examines the crucial work of the 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train at Gallipoli

your history

- 30 A sterling idea**
Eight centuries ago the first Magna Carta was sealed and the judiciary system we know today was born. Learn how the Royal Australian Mint is celebrating this milestone event

travel

- 56 Norfolk's secret past**
Sarah Trevor heads to sun-soaked Norfolk Island to learn about history the best way — from the locals!

regulars

- 6 Editor's letter**

- 10 Postie's here!**
Your thoughts, your say

- 11 Bob's your uncle**
Network with other researchers and break down those genealogy brick walls

- 13 Platform**
Dr Tanya Evans on family life in the Benevolent Society of New South Wales; plus the latest news from the genie and history world

- 18 History now**
Great events around Australia and New Zealand that you won't want to miss

- 25 History apps**
The latest apps built for historians, from walking tours to an Australian monument locator

- 26 What's new online?**
Our wrap-up of the latest record sets to hit the web

- 54 What we're reading**
The latest history titles that we're loving right now

- 66 One picture... 1,000 memories**
Treading the boards with celebrities is the tale behind one family's quirky image!

56

66

30

11

48



Have you ever dreamt of taking your love for family history one step further and gaining formal qualifications? Or extending your knowledge on a particular topic with one of the many free lecture series available?

We've had a number of readers contact us about featuring a guide to the best family history courses, both here and overseas, free and paid. And we've delivered! Turn to page 32 for our **essential guide to studying family history**.

We're also excited to launch our first history debate, in what we hope will become a regular feature. This issue, two Australian authors look at the question of bushrangers: were they **criminals or outback legends**? Read both sides on page 36.

We've also been fascinated to meet John Warren, a volunteer who has corrected more than **three million lines of newspaper text** on Trove. And now he's also linking that information to family history trees on Ancestry. Read more about his worthwhile and valuable work on page 44.

I confess I wasn't aware of the work of the **1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train**

(RANBT) at Gallipoli. David Stevens has researched Australia's Navy in World War One and on page 48 he reports on the RANBT's crucial work, so crucial that they were described as 'the most useful and most characteristically Australian force that served in the Great War'.

Eight centuries ago this year King John was putting his seal to **Magna Carta**, a document that decreed that no person is above the law, not even a king. The Royal Australian Mint is celebrating this historic anniversary with a spectacular, limited edition \$5 coin — read more on page 30.

All this and much more, including **Norfolk Island's secret history**, the latest **record sets** online, and **book and app reviews**.

Happy researching,

Cassie

Congratulations

to our competition winners from issue 27!



In issue 27 we were giving away five World Heritage Memberships to Ancestry. Visit **insidehistory.com.au/category/special-offers** to discover if you're one of the lucky winners! And turn to page 62 for our giveaway this issue — three Ancestry DNA and Membership packages. Simply subscribe, renew or give a gift subscription and you're in the draw!





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COVER IMAGE

This unidentified family portrait was discovered in an album belonging to **Thomas Lewis Singleton** (1847–1922). Courtesy State Library of Victoria, ID H93.23/148.

WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this magazine contains images of people who have passed away.

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This issue we ask our CONTRIBUTORS

Where in the world have your ancestors or research taken you?



Shauna Hicks

“Ask our experts”, page 16

I have travelled all over Australia to places my ancestors lived — Moonta, Charters Towers, the Shoalhaven area, Richmond and Ballarat are just some of the places where we have followed in our ancestors’ footsteps. I have lots of Irish ancestors, my Scottish families ended up in Australia and Canada, my Norwegian ancestors went to Queensland (and some to Minnesota) and my English ancestors were in Cornwall, Wiltshire and the Black Country (Staffordshire).

Carol Baxter

“Bushrangers: criminals or legends?”, page 36

Into the world of forensic toxicology, of poisons like arsenic and cyanide (don’t cross me!), and of the psyches of those who used them to kill. Never could I have imagined — when I started tracing my family history at the age of 17 — that I would find myself in the criminological world, although I must admit that I do have some felons in my own ancestry.



Christine Yeats

“What we’re reading”, page 54

For me, each research project is like an adventure — opening up new and often unexpected discoveries about people and places from the past. It can take me to archival repositories, collections and sites across the globe — the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, the USA and back home again. Along the way I will uncover an extraordinary array of original documents, each with its own history and story to tell.

POSTIE'S HERE!

Share your thoughts with the *Inside History* team.

BUILDING UP HISTORY

I have just been browsing through my issue 27. I enjoy every article and there always seems to be a story in each issue that relates to something in my family or something I have seen. This time it was the photograph of the quaint old church in Robe, South Australia. We have just been to parts of South Australia and we noticed that, as we drove around the Eyre Peninsula, almost every property seemed to have a very small church of its own. Many of them are falling apart but they all seemed to be much the same design and made from the local stone. They looked quite beautiful in their rural settings. So many historic, partly destroyed buildings down that way. I love old Australian architecture.

Thank you again. Keep up the wonderful job you do.

— Lyle Story, Brassall, QLD

READING JOAN BEAUMONT

I just wanted to let you know I really enjoyed reading your interview with Joan Beaumont, "Broken nation, shattered myths", in issue 27 of *Inside History*. I look forward to reading issue 28.

— David Sandbach, Melbourne, VIC

CYCLEMANIA

I've only had time for a quick glance at issue 27, but already I've found something very interesting and relevant — namely, the item

about cycling ("History now"). I have my grandfather's cycling medals from the early 1900s!

— Judy Webster, via email

WRITING WORKHOUSES

I am impressed with the workhouse article, it was well written and full of interesting facts that have helped me gain a better understanding of how they were run.

As usual I love reading *Inside History* when it arrives in the mail — it never ceases to interest me.

— Julie Watt, Deepwater, NSW

HERO OF SYDNEY

I was excited when I saw the photo of the Hero of Waterloo pub in issue 28, and dived

straight into the walking tour article! I probably spent a few too many hours in that pub when I lived in Sydney...

— Tanya Honey, Bangalow, NSW

SIR TONY ROBINSON'S FANS

I'm loving issue 28. I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Tony Robinson last year when he was filming *Tour of Duty* in Newcastle. He was so nice.

— Shell Lancaster, via Facebook

FACEBOOK FREEBIE

Thanks for my prize, *The Rebel Ship: Minerva*, on Facebook recently. I reckon it will be a good read. I really enjoy your magazine and have been buying it from the very beginning.

— Debra Smith, Cronulla, NSW

Each issue the writer of our star letter will receive a recently released history book for writing in! This issue, David Sandbach will receive *In All Respects Ready: Australia's Navy in World War One* by David Stevens (Oxford University Press, \$59.95). To read an extract, turn to page 48.

Want to have your say on "Postie's here"?
Write to us at contribute@insidehistory.com.au



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twitter.com/insidehistory

BOB'S YOUR UNCLE



Are you looking to connect with other descendants or historians? Each issue we'll feature who and what people are researching.

SEEKING WILLIAM MCPHERSON

I am trying to trace the parents and siblings of my ancestor **William McPherson**, born around 1863–64. He married **Mary Ann Smith** on 2 November 1892 in Narrandera, New South Wales and died in 1912 in Hillston, New South Wales.

— Rosalea Stevens,
stevens05@bigpond.com

THE LITTLE TOWN IN THE WEST

I have been sent a picture of an old embroidered cloth that measures about 1 metre square with the names of local people in the old Adavale district. It seems to have been created around 1912–13. It was passed to my friend from her aunt, **Marjory Gould** (née **Elliott**), who received it from her mother, **Alice Elliott** (née **Walton**).

It is assumed that either Alice or her family were at Adavale at the time of the cloth's creation, as there is an 'E. R. Walton' embroidered on it.

Would anyone have an idea as to why such an item was created and for what purpose? Perhaps it was a custom in those days that has since faded in relevance? I appreciate your thoughts and suggestions.

— Julie Brodie,
juliebrodie@hotmail.com

MISSING YEARS

We've been tracing the story of my 3 x great grandfather, **Edward Mahon**. He came from Sligo, Ireland and arrived in Australia as a convict aged 18, in November 1821, aboard the *John Barry*. He married at age 41 and had two children with his wife, **Elizabeth Noble**.

During his lifetime he had three death sentences pronounced on him and also survived 14 years on Norfolk Island. He received his certificate of freedom in January 1841, and this is where we start to struggle with piecing together the rest of his life. We know his son **Edward Jnr** was born in 1843, and his daughter **Julia** was baptised in 1846. Our next record is his death in 1863. What was his life's journey in the last 20 years?

Any information or sources would be most appreciated.

— Clare Jasek,
clarejasek@optusnet.com.au



Lots of researchers have been linking up and knocking down their research brick walls via "Bob's your uncle". To place an ad, email: contribute@insidehistory.com.au. Adverts are free!

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CUP OF TEA

with Tanya Evans, historian



Researching the histories of the disadvantaged is more challenging than researching the fortunate, Dr Tanya Evans tells Sarah Trevor — but also more fascinating.

Your latest book, *Fractured Families*, explores the lives of the disadvantaged in colonial New South Wales. What drew you to this topic?

I have always been interested in the history of poverty and people who lived on the margins of society. I find the poor's life stories much more interesting than those of the rich. I also think that the poor and the dispossessed need all the historians they can get.

What were some of the challenges of this research?

It is much harder to pull together sources on the lives of the poor. I love the detective work involved in piecing together fragmentary evidence in order to reveal the life-stories of the most desperate people in the past. Researching the lives of poor Australians involves working our way through convict, charitable and other records; the records of governmental organisations and charities rather than memoirs and letters.

Which resources did you find most helpful?

Actually what I loved most about this project was my collaboration with family historians.

It seemed important to me that the major client group of the Benevolent Society since its establishment — lone mothers and their children, some of the most disadvantaged members of Australian society since settlement— should contribute, in some way, to the Society's history. My work has also been dependent on the extremely generous contribution of genealogists Martyn Killion and Heather Garnsey. They created a database of admissions and discharge registers of the Benevolent Asylum from 1857 to 1900 (sydney.benevolentasylum.com).

Which personal story most affected you?

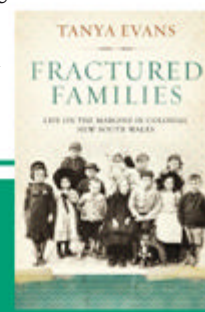
One of the stories that touched me most was that of **Jane Kelly Digby**. She came to New South Wales with her sister as Irish famine orphans.

Jane married a man who became so violent towards her that she was hospitalised. In fear for

her life, she left him, got a job as a servant and began a relationship with another man, with whom she had another five children. He eventually deserted her and she walked to Sydney from Yass with three of her children to seek relief. One of those children died and the surviving two moved in and out of the Benevolent Asylum. Jane eventually died of TB at the age of 42. Her descendant, Julie Poulter, is concerned that only successful migrants are celebrated in Australia's history. It is important that we remember the unfortunate as well as the fortunate.

If you could track down one thing you haven't yet managed to find out, what would it be?

I would love to learn more about **Arthur Renwick**. He transformed the care provided at the asylum, started the cutting-edge maternity facility and worked tirelessly for the boarding out of children as well as the old age pension. ♡



Fractured Families: Life on the Margins in Colonial New South Wales (NewSouth, \$39.99) is out now. Plus, read our review on page 55

THE LATEST NEWS

FROM THE HISTORY AND GENIE WORLD

Bonnets for convicts

A unique crowd-sourced memorial honouring the lives of Australia's convict women is nearing completion. *Roses from the Heart* aims to commemorate convict women's role in Australian history by collecting 25,566 convict bonnets — one for each female convict transported to Australia from 1788 to 1853.

Now, the project is just 800 bonnets shy of its target. People from all over the world, including many descendants of convict women, have created bonnets for the memorial. Get involved by downloading a pattern and sharing a bonnet of your own. [MORE rosesfromtheheart.tumblr.com/about](https://www.rosesfromtheheart.tumblr.com/about)

Below A bonnet for convict Jemima Bolton by Judy Bayles.



New perspectives on colonial Victoria

A multimedia project recently launched on the Culture Victoria website has shed light on lesser-known Indigenous contributions to the settlement of colonial Victoria.

Seeing the Land from an Aboriginal Canoe explores how Aboriginal people helped to guide European explorers, settlers and stock across Victoria's waterways and river systems.

The project was inspired by the work of historian Fred Cahir, who researched white settlers' dependence on Aboriginal navigation, canoes and ferrying to transport people, stock and goods around remote 19th-century Victoria.

The result is a documentary/online exhibition examining how the skill and generosity of Indigenous navigators helped develop colonial Victoria.

[MORE cv.vic.gov.au/stories/aboriginal-culture/seeing-the-land-from-an-aboriginal-canoe](https://www.culture.vic.gov.au/stories/aboriginal-culture/seeing-the-land-from-an-aboriginal-canoe)



Left An Aboriginal canoe, c.1870. Courtesy Museum Victoria. **Above** *The Graphic*, 1883. Courtesy Art Gallery of Ballarat.

Heritage in danger

One of the oldest and most extensive rock art sites in the world, located in Western Australia's Dampier Archipelago, has partially lost heritage protection.

The Burrup Peninsula contains more than 500,000 Indigenous rock carvings, some of which pre-date the last ice age. These document spiritual and cultural motifs, changing environmental patterns and wildlife, and some of the oldest depictions of the human face.

"There are a number of features of the rock art here that set it apart from anywhere else in the world," says archaeologist Dr Ken Mulvaney. "One is the sheer density of it, and that is because the art has been produced, as far as we can tell, possibly upwards over the past 30,000 years."

"Because it's such a wide span, the diversity and the artistry in

the images sets it apart from anywhere else."

In April, it was revealed that the Burrup was among at least 23 sites around Western Australia that have been delisted from the State Government's *Aboriginal Heritage Act*.

The not-for-profit group Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) is campaigning for the site to be nominated for World Heritage status, noting that an estimated 10,000 petroglyphs have already been destroyed on the peninsula. Threats include vandalism,

theft, and continued industrial expansion.

See FARA's website for more on how to help save this priceless site.

MORE fara.com.au

Sharing Sydney's First Fleet history

Interested in Sydney's early history? The Dictionary of Sydney has recently published new First Fleet histories, plus articles on key Aboriginal sites in the Sydney region.

MORE dictionaryofsydney.org



Below and right Burrup rock art. Images courtesy FARA and Robin Chapple MLC.



Ask our *experts*

Here, our resident experts answer your queries. This issue, **Shauna Hicks** delves into a reader's mysterious ancestor who seems to have disappeared during a stint in Melbourne Gaol.

Off the tracks



My great, great grandmother was sentenced at Beechworth, Victoria

to six months' hard labour in Melbourne Gaol on 17 November 1859 for drunk and disorderly behaviour. Her name was **Eleanor** or **Ellen Concannon** (*née Hughes*). She had been married in 1850 at St Francis Church Melbourne to **Henry Concannon**.

She had four children that I know of. **Mary**, my great grandmother, was born in 1852, while John was born in 1853. She also had two boys who both died at just eight days old: **Patrick** in 1853, and **William** in 1858.

Eleanor seems to have gone off the tracks in 1859. I can find no reference to bad behaviour before this year. It would seem a very sad existence for a young woman grieving for her babies, and to be sentenced to six months' hard labour for being

drunk and disorderly seems a tad harsh, even for those days.

As I can find no record of death in BDM Victoria, I believe that she may have died in Melbourne Gaol around 1859. I am wondering if there may be someone who would look up the records of Female Prisoners from 1859 onward to ascertain if she died in gaol or was released and disappeared after that date. My aim is to find out where she died and was buried.

— Frances Campbell,
Frankston, VIC





Digitised newspapers are a wonderful way for us to learn interesting

little snippets about our ancestors. They provide clues that allow us to discover more about the incident from original records held in state archives and, in this instance, Public Record Office Victoria (PROV — see prov.vic.gov.au). When someone goes to gaol there will usually be police, court and prison records that give far more information than what appears in newspaper accounts.

Have a look at the PROV guide on prison records (prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-58) to see what records are available for research. Remember these guides usually only mention the most frequently used records and there may be more relevant records.

For example, VPRS 10879/Po is an alphabetical index to the Central Register of Female Prisoners. It has been digitised and is accessible online. There is a reference to Ellen Concannon — register no 487, register 1, page 487. With this reference

you then need to check the microfiche copy of VPRS 516/P1, the Central Register of Female Prisoners, which is available in the PROV reading room. If you cannot visit PROV personally, then you need to ask someone to do the research for you.

If she died in gaol there would have been an inquest and a death certificate. A search of Victorian inquests and BDMS does not reveal Ellen/Eleanor dying in c.1859–60. It is probable that she was alive when she left gaol and the above register entry should confirm this once someone has looked at it for you.

As her behaviour seems to have changed after the birth and death of her last child, it may be that she was suffering what we now know to be postnatal depression. Have you looked at Victorian asylum records to see if she was admitted c.1860, after she got out of gaol? Many of these records have been digitised by PROV and are searchable online.

When someone disappears you need to think of all possible scenarios. Could she have left Henry Concannon and gone back to using her maiden name of Hughes, or did she meet someone else? Did she return to

SHAUNA'S TIP

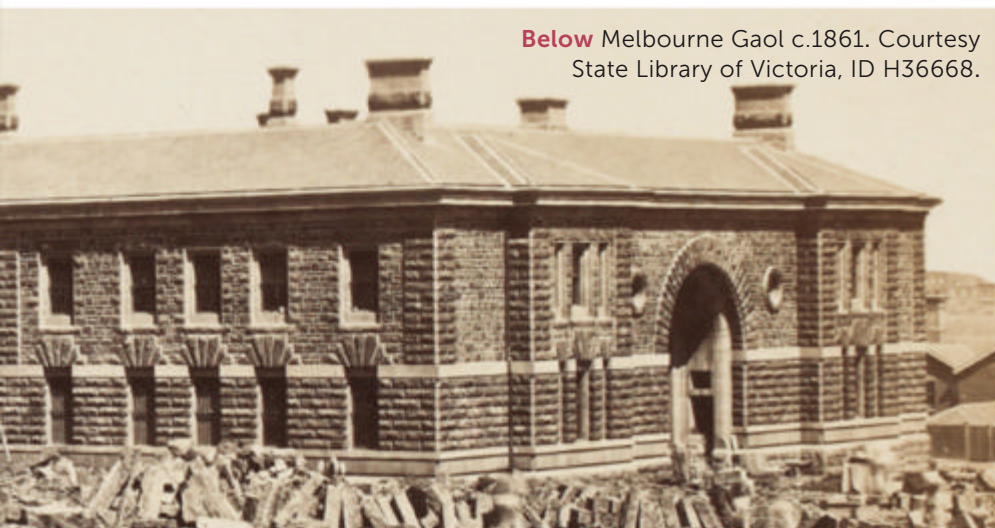
When someone 'disappears' off the family tree you need to think of all possible scenarios: could they have assumed another name? Did they return home? Where were their family members?

Beechworth or did she stay in Melbourne after her release from gaol? Where was her family in 1860? Have you looked at all given name variants of Ellen, Helen, Nell, Nellie, Eleanor, Elinore and surname variants Colcannon, Concanon, and so on? Could she have moved interstate?

But before you look at those other options, you really do need to get someone to research the court and prison records at PROV for you. Although research agents do charge for their time, one or two hours' paid research may just solve this brick wall for you. Alternatively you may be able to find someone who can look it up for you when they visit PROV by advertising your research need on one of the Victorian mailing lists or one of the genealogy Facebook groups. Good luck. 🍀

** Shauna Hicks is the director of Shauna Hicks History Enterprises. Visit shaunahicks.com.au*

Below Melbourne Gaol c.1861. Courtesy State Library of Victoria, ID H36668.



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History now

The best events across
Australia and New Zealand
Compiled and written by
Sarah Trevor





10

August

A Feast of Family History

The State Library of Victoria is hosting its 12th annual Family History Feast during National Family History Month. This year the ever-popular program, held on site at the Library, turns to World War I. Learn about how to find Australian women in the war, soldier settlement in Victoria and the 4th Light Horse regiment. More information about State Library Victoria genealogy resources and podcasts of earlier Family History Feasts on different themes are available at slv.vic.gov.au.

Visit slv.vic.gov.au

NSW

Until
31
July

Writtenworlds: Handwritten Local Histories

Writtenworlds, at the Museum of the Riverina in Wagga Wagga, is a unique exhibition displaying handwritten treasures from a vast array of writers. It features artefacts relating to three of Australia's most beloved authors, Dame Mary Gilmore, Miles

Franklin and Henry Lawson, alongside letters and diaries from early pioneers of the Riverina region, and a range of memoirs and postcards spanning two centuries. *Spokenworlds*, a short film by John Riddell, is also on display. Drawn from museum collections from around the region, as well as the State Library of NSW, this exhibition offers an intimate look at the handwritten word, and the fragility of documents before today's digital communication.

Visit wagga.nsw.gov.au/museum

Until
9
August

Toys Through Time

Take a trip down memory lane and learn more about the toy sellers and manufacturers of yesteryear at this exhibition about all things toys. Over 200 original toys are on display at the

Museum of Sydney, showcasing the creativity and evolution of toy design from peg dolls to Barbie and tin soldiers to spacemen. *Toys Through Time* offers a nostalgic look at childhood of bygone eras through the beloved toys of generations of Sydneysiders — from teddy bears to train sets to rattles and more. Visit sydneylivingmuseums.com.au



12
August

Gaol Records

Did your ancestor do time? Or perhaps there's an unexplained gap in their life that incarceration may just explain? Join John Cann from State Records NSW at Tuggerah Library for this two-hour session on gaol records. His talk will delve into the

many records that State Records NSW holds relating to the inmates of gaols from around New South Wales. You'll discover how to learn more about your ancestor behind bars.

Visit records.nsw.gov.au

Until
23
August

Crowd Source

See
1880s-era
Sydney

through the lens of a surreptitious street photographer at this interesting State Library of NSW exhibition. Using a hand-held 'Detective Camera' wrapped in a parcel, **Arthur K Syer** hit the pavements of Sydney in the 1880s, and photographed the scenes and people he encountered. The informal composition, low camera angles, and blurred movements vividly portray a sense of street life in late 19th-century Sydney. Take a look at the images for a fascinating contrast of the buildings, landmarks and street scenes of Sydney now and then.

Visit sl.nsw.gov.au



Image Circular Quay c.1885-90. Courtesy State Library of NSW, ID 034720056.

WA

4-5
August

National Family History Month talks

To celebrate National Family History Month, the Western Australian Genealogical Society (WAGS) and State Library of Western Australia are teaming up for a fascinating day of free family history talks. This all-day event, to be held at the State Library, covers a range of topics such as digital resources, the convict guard, WAGS and World War I, how to keep your history safe, Sikh history in Western Australia, and the State Library's Storylines project. You'll learn about DNA, family history apps, overseas research, how to look after your precious documents and photographs, and more.

Visit slwa.wa.gov.au

ACT

until
26
July

All That Fall
Loss and absence are the main themes of this art

exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. *All That Fall: Sacrifice, Life and Loss in the First World War* explores the emotional intensity of loss on the Australian home front, through a range of memorable works: a symbolic memorial of a dying Anzac lying in the arms of Death; video portraits taken among the actors and creators of *Black Diggers*; a distinctive sound installation featuring the spoken names of the 11th Battalion, which was the first to fall at Gallipoli, and more. A moving exhibition. Visit portrait.gov.au

1
August

Life Interrupted: Gallipoli Moments
curator talk

Opening at the National Archives of Australia (NAA) in late July, *Life Interrupted: Gallipoli* is based on the popular State Library of NSW exhibition that showcased war diaries collected between 1918 and 1925. This display at the NAA has expanded to include service records, archival materials and personal stories relating specifically to Gallipoli. Join the curators of both exhibitions, Elise Edmonds from the State Library of NSW and Anne-Marie Conde of the NAA, for a free talk discussing these unique collections. Visit naa.gov.au

QLD

Grandchester Steamfest
2015 marks the 150th anniversary of

26
July

Queensland Rail, and what better way to celebrate than by visiting the state's oldest surviving railway station? At Steamfest, heritage lovers and rail enthusiasts alike can tour the heritage-listed Grandchester Station, after watching a re-enactment of the 1865 opening of Queensland's first railway line from Ipswich to Bigges Camp (now Grandchester). Other highlights of this free celebration include a display of vintage cars, trucks, tractors, and historic machinery, demonstrations of blacksmiths, wheelwright and quilting, and a colonial camp complete with children's games.

Visit steamfest.org.au

14
August

Brick Walls: Solving Tough Research Problems

Just about every genealogist has one: a stubborn brick wall in our research that, try as we may, seems to defy every attempt to knock it down. Sound familiar? The Queensland Family History Society (QFHS) has just the trick: this 2.5-hour session involves a presentation by Sue Reid, along with several QFHS experts, outlining some strategies to help tear those brick walls down. Next, you can receive personalised advice from QFHS experts on your own research problem in a one-on-one clinic. The cost is \$11 for QFHS members and \$15 for non members. Bookings are essential. Visit qfhs.org.au

15
August

Mining the Earth's Riches: Digging into the Records

Was your ancestor a miner — of coal, gold, tin or other minerals altogether? Mining was a crucial yet often dangerous occupation in years and centuries past.

At this seminar, hosted by the Genealogical Society of Queensland, Pauline Williams will delve into the occupational records relating to mining, both in Australia and the United Kingdom. You'll be unearthing your mining ancestors in no time! This 2.15-hour session costs \$12 for GSQ members and \$17 for non members. Visit gsq.org.au

until
5
October

Horse in War

Approximately 120,000 horses were in the Australian Army during the First World War — a mindboggling figure. *Horse in War*, on show at the Cobb+Co Museum in Toowoomba, explores the lives and deaths of Queensland soldiers in the Great War and the horses who served alongside them. Exploring the role played by Aussie horsemen from the bush on the battle front, this exhibition portrays the experiences of horses in warfare through touching photographs, diaries, artefacts and an original Army General Service (GS) Wagon.

Visit cobbandco.qm.qld.gov.au

VIC

ST Gill and His Audiences — Book Launch

As one of Australia's most significant 19th-century artists, Samuel Thomas Gill captured scenes of daily life around the cities, goldfields and countryside of Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales in a uniquely Australian style. He was popular around Australia and abroad, reputed as the 'artist of the goldfields'. Learn more about ST Gill and his artworks at the launch of the new book *ST Gill and His Audiences*, by art historian Professor Sasha Grishin, at Ballarat Art Gallery. This is both the first comprehensive book to be written on the artist, and a re-evaluation of this important figure. Free to attend.

Visit artgalleryofballarat.com.au

22
July



Image ST Gill's sketch of the gold diggings, c.1860s. Courtesy SLV, ID H15528.

23
July

Rare Book Week: Preserving Your Collection

As every family historian knows, working on the family tree is a labour of love, and the resulting research is precious indeed — but few of us give much thought to the question of how to preserve our research. At this free one-hour workshop at the Genealogical Society of Victoria, coinciding with Melbourne Rare Book Week, Debra Parry of the Melbourne Conservation Services will share tips on preserving your family history. Learn how to store your collection to ensure it is preserved for future generations. Visit gsv.org.au

Planning a genealogy, history or heritage event?

Do you have an upcoming event you'd like to let *Inside History* readers know about? We're always looking for great family history events around Australia and New Zealand. If you have one coming up, email us 100 words about your event along with any booking or contact details and two high quality (300dpi) images at contribute@insidehistory.com.au. Please note we work three months in advance. Events are subject to change. We recommend contacting the organisers in advance to confirm details.

SA

16
August

Old Adelaide Treasury Tour

Venture behind closed doors at the Old Adelaide Treasury,

built between 1839 and 1907. One of the city's oldest and most historically significant buildings, the Treasury was where the Adelaide Pound was smelted from gold from the eastern states. The National Trust is running this one-hour guided tour exploring the former Cabinet Room of the South Australian Government (still in its original condition), underground tunnel areas used to securely transport gold, and other hidden treasures. The cost is \$10. Book in advance. Email jhook@nationaltrustsa.org.au

until
Oct
2015

The War that Changed the World

*The WW1 Centenary
Exhibition: The War that
Changed the World*, at

Melbourne Museum, features more than 350 artefacts from London's Imperial War Museums on display outside of the United Kingdom for the first time ever. Drawing together rare artefacts, poignant artworks, historic images and film with digital technology and immersive soundscapes (such as a trench experience), this exhibition showcases both the vast scale of the First World War and its personal stories. Cost is \$25, including general entrance to the Melbourne Museum.

Visit ww1exhibition.com.au

Until
16
August

Interned: Torrens Island, 1914-15

Within months of the Great War breaking out in Europe, hundreds of men deemed 'enemy aliens' were rounded up and interned on Torrens Island near Adelaide, from foreign-born nationals who had settled in South Australia, to sailors from enemy ships, and even some naturalised British subjects. Little was known about life in the camp due to wartime censorship, but fortunately the compelling photographs of Paul Dubotzki and diary of Frank Bungardy bring to life the inmates' experiences behind barbed wire. See these wartime snapshots for yourself at this fascinating exhibition at the Migration Museum, developed in partnership with Flinders University.

Visit migrationmuseum.com.au



Image Torrens Island camp, 1914. Courtesy State Library South Australia, ID B 12161.

NZ

22
July

Family Trees and Facebook

Have you ever considered Facebook as a potential tool for researching and sharing your family history? Auckland Libraries' Social Media Coordinator Kelly Bold will present this free lunchtime 'power hour' on Facebook for family historians, followed by a one-on-one support session. Learn the differences between Facebook profiles, groups and pages, as well as tips and tricks for getting started, coming up with content ideas and navigating the site's privacy settings.

Visit aucklandlibraries.govt.nz

Farewell Zealandia: Forgotten Kiwi Songs of WWI

Farewell Zealandia shares a musical record of the hopes, fears, loss, remembrance and sense of duty surrounding World War One in New Zealand. The exhibition features 20 recordings of forgotten Great War era songs, commemorating campaigns, battles and the homefront alike, and the stories behind them. On show at the Te Manawa Museum in Palmerston North, *Farewell Zealandia* promises insights into the role that music played in the lives of New Zealanders as a means of both entertainment and expressing ideals and feelings regarding the war.

Visit temanawa.co.nz

Until
30
August

TAS

21
July

Hobart's Bank Arcade

Delve into the local history of Hobart at this presentation, held during the general meeting of the Tasmanian Family History Society's Hobart branch at the Sunday School in St Johns Park. Guest speaker John Short will deliver a talk on the history of the Bank Arcade in Liverpool Street, parts of which stretch back to the colony's early settlement period. Expect a riveting talk featuring a range of early colonial characters, governors and ordinary citizens alike — from Governors Bligh and Macquarie to Martin Timm, whose last appearance in the historical record was described as '*dragging on a miserable existence in Hobart Town, his Wife earning a little pittance by washing Clothes*'. Visit hobart.tasfhs.org

11
August

The 1829 Mission of George Augustus Robinson

George Augustus Robinson was a controversial character in Tasmanian history. During the Black War, Robinson embarked on a mission to round up Tasmanian Aborigines and resettle them on a camp on Flinders Island and, with the help of Truganini, settled agreements with various Indigenous peoples on the island. This resettlement ended in tragedy. At this meeting of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association, Don Ranson will discuss Robinson's 1829 mission in relation to the other side of the frontier. Visit thra.org.au

2015 NSW & ACT AFHS



Conference

IN PORT MACQUARIE
11th – 13th September 2015

Theme: “Journey of Discovery”
Join us in Port Macquarie and
discover more about your
family’s journey.

Free presentations from specialist speakers from Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage, State Records of NSW and Trove, as well as a wide range of family history services and products available from trade and society exhibitors.

For more details: Register at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nswpmfhs and click on the Conference link or email conference.pmdfhs@gmail.com



HISTORY *apps*

Though hardly hallowed by the passing of time, these apps harness the latest technology to help you link with the past in informative and interesting ways. **Sarah Trevor** and **Madeleine Er** roadtest four of the latest to see how they fare.



Towns Through Time

Free; iOS and Android compatible

Ever fancied having a sample of State Records NSW's extensive image collection in your pocket? *Towns Through Time* lets you search for photographs from their Flickr collection by town, suburb or GPS location.

It goes beyond images, too. A sample search of 'Parramatta' turned up a handwritten letter by **Governor Macquarie** to **John Macarthur** (transcript included), entries of infamous crims **Eugene Falleni**, **Tilly Devine** and **Kate Leigh** from the Long Bay Women's Reformatory logbook, and photographs of Circular Quay and Broadway.

This wonderful resource also includes links to the State Records NSW website.



Monument Australia

\$2.49; iOS and Android compatible

If you've ever stumbled upon an interesting monument and wanted to learn more about it, this is the app for you.

Monument Australia aims to record details of every public monument and memorial around Australia. At the time of print, more than 24,000 are listed on the app, along with their address or GPS coordinates and details of the inscription, dedication date, and the identity of the designer or sculptor.

Perhaps most useful is its ability to show nearby monuments using your Google location. It's a handy educational resource for when you're travelling. For more details, visit **monumentaustalia.org.au**



Phonebooth

Free; Optimised for mobiles, accessible on desktop

This app allows for access to the documented London maps of 1898–99 by philanthropist and social researcher **Charles Booth**. There is a legend that shows what each coloured area means, for example, black colours are "vicious, semi criminal" areas, and yellow shows "wealthy" areas. There are linked dots that refer you to notebook information (page and volume), however as this is in the Beta stage, most of the notebooks are still being digitised.

It's an interesting way to learn about different parts of Victorian London at this time, and will surely become more useful once it moves from the Beta stage.

For more details, visit **booth.lse.ac.uk**

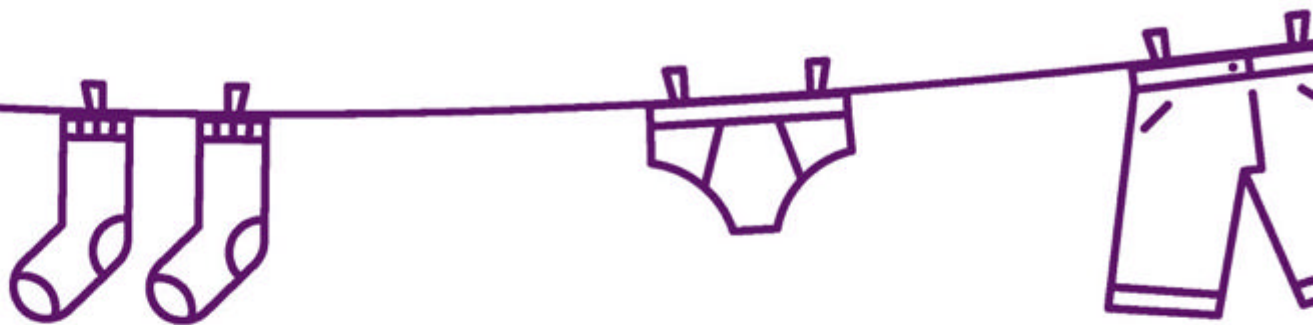


StoryMap

Free; iOS and Android compatible

StoryMap is essential for any history lover travelling to Dublin, or family historian wanting to learn more about the city. It's a well-designed and easy-to-use app with a wealth of multimedia content, including photographs and video recordings of expert storytellers sharing their insights.

But the real winning element is the sheer variety and quality of stories you can sift through, all marked on a key by type: Funny, Historic, Literary, Place of Interest or Personal. It's a fascinating way to explore Dublin's enviable heritage, from the historic to the downright bizarre, and will enrich any traveller or armchair traveller's journey.



WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

Billions of family history records at your fingertips. Millions more added every month. **Sarah Trevor** discovers the latest genealogical and historical collections available online to keep you up to speed.



ANCESTRY

- British Army Muster Books and Pay Lists, 1812–17
- Gloucestershire Gaol Registers, 1815–79
- Lancashire, England, Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648–1908
- New Zealand, Sheep Returns, Owners and Officers, 1879–89
- New Zealand, Teacher and Civil Service Examinations and Licenses, 1880–1920
- St. John's Parramatta, Church Records, 1838–1918
- St. John's Parramatta, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1790–1966
- UK Popular Edition Maps, 1919–26
- UK World War I War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–20
- UK World War I War Diaries (Gallipoli and Dardanelles), 1914–16
- Victoria, Index to Naturalisation Certificates, 1851–1928

Visit ancestry.com.au

FINDMYPAST

- England and Wales, Society of Friends (Quaker) Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1578–1841
- Dublin Workhouses Admission and Discharge Registers, 1840–1919
- Essex Wills Beneficiaries Index, 1505–1916



- New South Wales Closer Settlement and Returned Soldiers Transfer Files, 1907–36; 1951
- New South Wales Gaol Photographic Description Books, 1871–1969
- New South Wales *Government Gazette* Indexes, 1832–63
- New South Wales, Returned Soldiers Settlement Loan Files
- Northern Territory Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes, 1870–1918
- Queensland Wills Index, 1857–1940
- Victoria Parliamentary Papers, 1852–99
- Various British and Irish newspapers

Visit findmypast.com.au

DECEASED ONLINE

- Sandwell cemetery and crematoria records

Visit deceasedonline.com

ESSEX ANCESTORS

- Essex wills, 1400s–1858 (now complete)

Visit seax.essexcc.gov.uk

FORCES WAR RECORDS

- United Kingdom Army Casualty Lists, 1939–45
- World War I Military Hospitals Admissions and Discharge Registers (updates)

Visit forces-war-records.co.uk

THE GENEALOGIST

- First World War Medal Index Cards
- Railway Employment Records indexes (updates)

Visit thegenealogist.co.uk

LIVES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

- British World War I Conscientious Objectors

Visit livesofthefirstworldwar.org

MY HERITAGE

- Scotland Census Extract, 1841; 1851; 1861
- Scotland, Notices of Admissions to Mental Institutions, 1858–59
- Scotland, Selected Banns and Marriages, 1650–1855
- Scotland, Selected Births and Baptisms, 1640–1860
- Scotland, Selected Deaths and Burials, 1730–1845
- Scotland, Selected Prison Registers, 1828–78
- Scotland, Selected Sheriff Court Paternity Case Index, 1748–1914

Visit myheritage.com

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, UK

- Victorian prisoners' photographic albums, 1872–73

Visit nationalarchives.gov.uk

ROOTS IRELAND

- Various County Monaghan Church of Ireland records

Visit rootsireland.ie

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS (UK)

- Civil Service examination records proving age, 1855–1939

Visit sog.org.uk

FREE RESOURCES

AIATSIS

- Indigenous language map of Australia (now zoom-able)

Visit aiatsis.gov.au

ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND

- 40,000 digitised images of Antarctic history

Visit antarctica.recollect.co.nz

ARMY BARRACKS OF IRELAND

- Map of army barracks of 18th-century Ireland (updated)

Visit barracks18c.ucd.ie/map

DEFENCE FORCES IRELAND MILITARY ARCHIVES

- Ireland Army Census Search (taken on 12 November 1922)

Visit census.militaryarchives.ie



DUBLIN CITY LIBRARIES

- Dublin Electoral Lists, 1938–64

Visit databases.dublincity.ie

FAMILYSEARCH

- London Electoral Registers, 1847–1913
- New South Wales census, 1828; 1891 (fragment)
- Tasmania, Civil Registration of Births, 1899–1912
- Tasmania, Correspondence Concerning the Nomination, Arrival and Settlement of Migrants, 1920–43
- Tasmania *Government Gazette*, 1833–1925
- Victoria, Assisted Immigrant Arrivals at Victorian Ports, 1839–71
- Warwickshire Parish Registers, 1535–1984

Visit familysearch.org

MEDIEVAL ENGLISH GENEALOGY

- Fines from various counties, 1307–60

Visit medievalgenealogy.org.uk

NATIONAL ARCHIVES IRELAND

- Movement of Extremists reports (secret police files re. Easter Rising suspects in Dublin), 1915–16 (ongoing)

Visit nationalarchives.ie

PAPERS PAST (NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND)

- *Alexandra Herald and Central Otago Gazette*, 1902–48
- *Haeata*, 1859–62
- *Korimako*, 1882–90



- *Maori Messenger: Te Karere Maori*, 1842–63
- *Puke ki Hikurangi*, 1897–1913
- *Samoa Times and South Sea Advertiser*, 1888–96
- *Waka Maori*, 1863–84

For more titles, visit paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

- Queensland Place Names Database

Visit qld.gov.au/environment/land/place-names/search/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA INTEGRATED LAND INFORMATION SYSTEM

- Various historic South Australian land records

Visit sailis.sa.gov.au

SOUTH BURNETT COUNCIL (QUEENSLAND)

- World War I Every Man Remembered database

Visit southburnett.qld.gov.au

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

- World War I oral history of Thomas Leonard Charlton
- World War I soldier portraits from *The Queenslander* pictorial supplement, 1914–18

Visit slq.qld.gov.au

STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- Pubs of Port Adelaide Flickr image collection
- South Australian Red Cross Information Bureau

Visit slsa.sa.gov.au

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

- Alan K Jordan photographic collection of inner Melbourne suburbs, 1960s–70s

Ballarat mining maps, 1870–90

Visit slv.vic.gov.au

STATE RECORDS NSW

- Index of New South Wales government employees granted military leave, 1914–18
- *London Gazette* reports on Gallipoli landing, 1915
- World War I probate packet index, 1914–18

Visit records.nsw.gov.au

STATE RECORDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- 100 Anzacs Flickr album (updates)

Visit archives.sa.gov.au

TROVE

- Records from the Biographical Dictionary of the Australian Senate
- *The Armidale Chronicle*, NSW, 1894–1929
- *The Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser*, NSW, 1856–61; 1863–89; 1891–1954
- *The Blue Mountains Advertiser*, NSW, 1940–54
- *Coffs Harbour Advocate*, NSW, 1907–42; 1946–54
- *The Inverell Times*, NSW, 1899–1954
- *The Uralla News*, NSW, 1904–07
- *Daily Standard*, QLD, 1912–36
- *Warwick Daily News*, QLD, 1919–54
- *The Week*, (Brisbane) QLD, 1876–1934
- *The Kangaroo Island Courier*, SA, 1907–51
- *The Laura Standard*, SA, 1889–1917
- *Laura Standard and Crystal Brook Courier*, SA, 1917–48
- *Pinnaroo and Border Times*, SA, 1911–54
- *Pinnaroo Country News*, SA, 1908–22
- *World*, (Hobart) TAS, 1918–24
- *The Banner*, (Melbourne) VIC, 1853–54
- *The Farmer's Journal and Gardener's Chronicle*, VIC, 1862–64
- *Sporting Globe*, VIC, 1922–54
- *The Victorian Farmers Journal and Gardeners Chronicle*, VIC, 1860–62
- *Collie Mail*, WA, 1914–18
- *The Eastern Recorder*, (Kellerberrin) WA, 1914–18
- *Harvey Chronicle*, (Pinjarra) WA, 1915–16
- *The Labor Vanguard*, WA, 1911; 1916
- *Nor-West Echo*, WA, 1914–18
- *Sparks' Fortnightly*, WA, 1916–19

Visit trove.nla.gov.au for more titles

WILEY RESEARCH COLLECTION

- Papers on Indigenous Australia (including history)

Visit <http://bit.ly/1Gn2nmE>

HANDY HINT

If you've got an interest in Indigenous culture, make sure you get in quick to read the collection of scholarly journal articles on the Wiley Research Collection website! They're freely available online only until 30 September.



A sterling idea

Eight centuries ago, the Magna Carta decreed that no person is above the law, not even a king. This 'Great Charter' is still the basis of our legal system, and influences our daily life. And a new collection from the Royal Australian Mint means we can all own a little piece of this historic document.

FEW HISTORICAL documents in the world are imbued with the importance of the Magna Carta. And it's an importance that is not diminishing. When in 1952 the Australian Parliament bought one of only two 1297 editions for £12,500 pounds from a school in Britain, Australia got a comparative bargain; when the National Archives in Washington bought the sister copy in 2007, the figure paid was US\$21.3 million.

The Magna Carta was sealed by **King John** on 15 June 1215 at Runnymede in London, by the

River Thames. A king increasingly despised by his subjects, the drawing up of the document by a group of rebel barons was a reaction to King John's unfair rulings and imprisonments, raising of taxes, and disregard for the welfare of his people.

It was subsequently reissued four times with modifications in the 13th century: in 1216, 1217, 1225, and 1297. It's influenced generations since, from **Sir Edward Coke** in 1628, to **John Adams** and **Thomas Jefferson**. It was critical in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the Australian Constitution.



Left The limited edition 2015 \$5 Fine Silver Antique Rectangular Coin by the Royal Australian Mint features a representation of King John's Great Seal from the 1215 Magna Carta and an inscription from King Edward's 1297 Inspeximus issue.

Celebrating 800 years of liberty

The list of rights on the 'Great Charter' forms the foundations of society today: asserting such values as the right to a free trial, and that every person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. It even extends to asserting that there be standard measures of alcohol and cloth.

The 800th anniversary celebrations are stretching around the globe. The Royal Australian Mint in Canberra is commemorating the event by releasing a spectacular and collectable \$5 coin. Adonis Cox has led the development team at the Mint on the project.

"In honour of this historic anniversary, the Royal Australian Mint has produced its own historic piece — its first Australian legal tender rectangular coin," explains Cox. "The coin design is highly significant as through research, we found an image of the original Great Seal that was used on the original 1215 document, sealed by King John himself. We traced that seal and used that as part of the coin design.

"The reverse of the coin also features an inscription from the 1297 Inspeximus issue by King Edward, held at Australian Parliament House (APH)," she says. "The design of the coin is striking, and it was quite a process to get it right," says

Cox. "First we went to APH to inspect the 1297 Inspeximus issue and identified the section we wanted to incorporate into the design. We then engaged a translator to ensure we selected the correct section and went through additional measures to make certain we had been true to the original document."

Cox is excited to be part of such a legacy. "The Magna Carta was a revolutionary declaration, ensuring that any future rulers were also bound by laws. The justice system that we hold dear today, with fair trials and juries, owes its existence to this historical artefact.

"It is an honour for the Mint to play a part during this celebrative period, marking this historic anniversary with our own historic and tangible piece. This special edition, fine silver coin boasts a limited mintage, individually hand-crafted antique finish and a unique rectangular shape. It is a way to share the story of the Magna Carta with future generations for them to appreciate its continued relevance in today's society." ❧

✱ *The \$5 commemorative Magna Carta coin is on sale now at the Royal Australian Mint. Visit eshop.ramint.gov.au for details.*

Studying the past

Choosing the *right* course for you

Ready to take your love for history to the next level? Whether you're looking to gain qualifications as a genealogist, study history in depth, or simply brush up on your research skills, there's a course for everyone. **Sarah Trevor** explores the options.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Courses The University of New England offers two distinguished programs in local, family and applied history, and was one of the first tertiary education institutions in the country to offer courses in these areas. There are two postgraduate streams: the Graduate Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History (for which you need to have a university degree); and the Advanced Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History.

Location Based in Armidale but the course is taught online.

Recommended for Those who want to study family and local history, and acquire formal qualifications in the field, to practise as local or family historians professionally.

Cost As a formal university course, fees vary according to whether you're a full fee-paying student or have a Commonwealth supported place (CSP). See une.edu.au/study/fees/student-fees/2014 for an indication.

More <https://my.une.edu.au/courses/2015/courses/GDLFAH>

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS

Courses Certificate in Genealogical Research and Diploma in Family Historical Studies. SAG also holds a number of great one-off genealogical workshops and talks throughout the year — check their events calendar for more details.

Location Based in Sydney, but the course work is completed online via email.

Recommended for Family historians who want to gain qualifications in the field.

Cost A one-off non-refundable fee of \$410.

More sag.org.au/events/courses-in-genealogy

FAMILY TREE UNIVERSITY

Courses A vast range of short courses, ranging from ones focusing on family history skills and programs ('Doing Cemetery Research'; 'Become a FamilySearch.org Power User') to particular areas ('Czech and Slovak

Genealogy 101'), to approaches ('Reconstruct Your Ancestor's Neighbourhood').

Location Based in the USA, but courses are taught online.

Recommended for Researchers with ancestry from America or a niche region.

Cost Varies, from US\$39 to \$129 (approximately AUD\$51 to \$167).

More familytreeuniversity.com/catalog

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

Courses There are lots of programs catering for family historians and genealogists at basic, intermediate and advanced levels. They offer 10 different certificates in American, Australian, Canadian, English, German, Scottish and Irish records, librarianship, methodology, and professional development. There is also a range of intensive short-term courses covering various methodologies and skills ('Organising a One-Name Study'; 'Reading and Understanding Historical Documents') and regions (from Italian, German, Canadian, American, Irish to Ukrainian, Native American, Saskatchewan and more).

Location Based in Canada, but the courses are taught online.

Recommended for Librarians and researchers who'd like to develop their genealogical skills or get foundations in researching their ancestry from some of the more remote corners of the world.

Cost Varies, from US\$89 to \$150 (approximately AUD\$115 to \$195).

More genealogicalstudies.com/eng/courses.asp

PHAROS TUTORS

Courses A vast array of short-term courses, from specific records ('Manorial Records for Family and Local Historians'), skills ('Tracing Beneficiaries — A Step by Step Guide') and niche topics ('Nonconformity — Its Records and History, 1600–1950'; 'Victorian Crime and Punishment — Courts, Police and Prisons').

Location Based in the UK, but the courses are taught online.

Recommended for Researchers with British ancestry who'd like to delve into particular record sets. ►

FREE HISTORY COURSES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Courses 'Introduction to Family History', starting in early July. Full scholarships are on offer for Australian students. Keep an eye out for future offerings.

Location Based in Tasmania, but taught online.

Recommended for

Researchers who would like to develop their skills in Australian genealogy, but aren't ready to commit to a professionally certified course.

More utas.edu.au/arts/introduction-to-family-history

OPEN2STUDY

Courses 'Indigenous Studies: Australia and New Zealand' is a month-long course that examines the histories of Indigenous and Maori peoples. It offers a non-formal Certificate of Achievement upon completion.

Location Course is taught online by Dr Maggie Walter, from the University of Tasmania, and Dr Huia Tomlins-Jahnke at Massey University, New Zealand.

Recommended for

Historians with an interest in Indigenous and Maori history.

More open2study.com/courses/indigenous-studies

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGICAL STUDIES (AIGS)

Courses AIGS holds a number of events, workshops and talks relating to genealogy throughout the year, but in particular their Starting Family History classes are popular for beginners in genealogical research.

Location The AIGS library

in Blackburn, Melbourne.

Recommended for Family history beginners within driving distance of Melbourne.

More aigs.org.au/classesabout.htm

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

Courses More a series of lectures rather than a course, one of our favourite picks is 'Australian Aboriginal History' by Prof. Richard Broome.

Location Based in Melbourne, but lectures are delivered via iTunes.

Recommended for History lovers who want to know more about Indigenous history.

More <http://apple.co/1Fo3X3Q>

BBC HISTORY COURSES

Courses Various courses delivered in partnership with a number of British universities, focusing in particular on the First World War and its impacts upon society.

Location Based in the UK, but courses are taught online

Recommended for Military history buffs.

More bbc.co.uk/history/0/28293511

FUTURE LEARN

Courses Future Learn partners with universities and educational institutions around the world to provide free short online courses. Streams include 'World War I: A History in 100 Stories', taught in partnership with Monash University; 'Irish Lives in War and Revolution', with Trinity College Dublin; and 'World War I: Changing Faces of Heroism', with the University of Leeds.

Location Based in the UK,

but courses are taught online.

Recommended for History buffs hoping to gain a deeper perspective on aspects of military and European history.

More futurelearn.com/courses/categories/history

HIBERNIA COLLEGE

Courses 'Exploring Irish Identity' was an online course offered in conjunction with Ireland's The Gathering celebrations of 2013. By registering, you can still access the content of the course, although it's no longer 'live' (in the sense that the forums are read-only). It contains an interesting overview of various key themes and periods in Irish history, along with sections on Irish culture.

Location Based in Dublin, but accessible online.

Recommended for Family historians with Irish ancestry who want to learn more about various aspects of Irish culture.

More mooc.hiberniacollege.com

BIG HISTORY PROJECT

Courses This is a one-off short course with a unique approach to the past that encompasses both science and history — covering '13.8 billion years of history' in four to six hours of content online.

Location It was developed by historians at Macquarie University, and is taught in universities around the world, but members of the public can access an abbreviated introduction online.

Recommended for People who love science as well as history, and want a 'big picture' approach to the past.

More bighistoryproject.com

Cost £34.99 to £61 (approximately AUD\$70 to 123).

More pharostutors.com/coursedescriptions.php

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Courses The Postgraduate Certificate in Scottish Culture and Heritage, presented by the University of Edinburgh and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, a Gaelic college, is the first course of its kind to be offered through distance learning — making it accessible for antipodeans with Scottish ancestry. (You can even study in Gaelic if you're able!)

Location Based in Edinburgh, but the course is taught online.

Recommended for University graduates with Scottish heritage, or an interest in Scottish history, looking to gain formal accreditation in this area.

Cost As a formal postgraduate qualification, the fee is £3,100 or £1,550 per annum part time (approximately AUD\$6,230 or \$3,015).

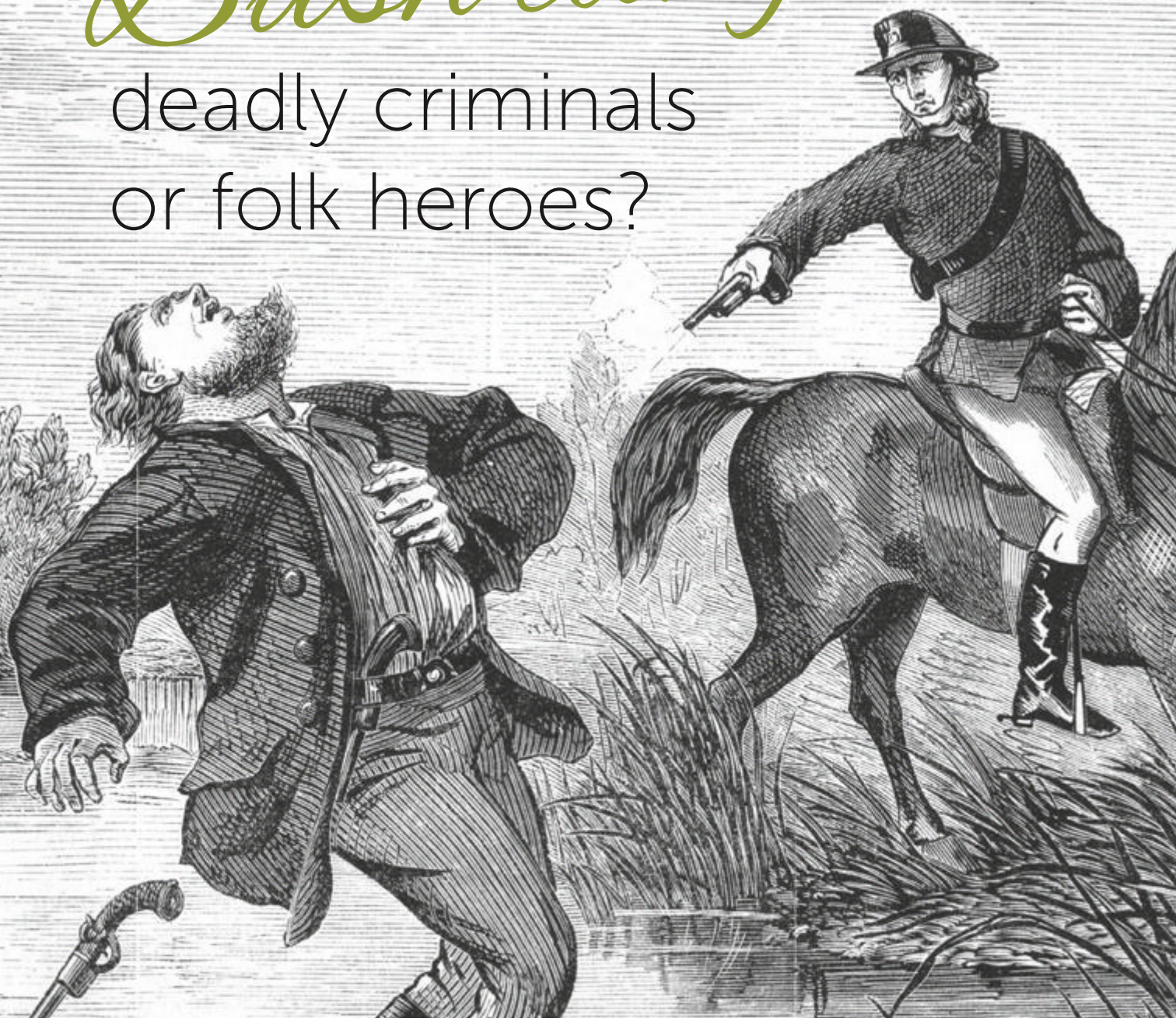
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Bushrangers:

deadly criminals
or folk heroes?



There is no denying the iconic status of bushrangers in the Australian psyche. But were they glorified criminals, or anti-authoritarian legends? In the first of our debate series, *Inside History* asked two authors — **Greg Powell** and **Carol Baxter** — who've researched and written widely on bushrangers for their thoughts on the matter. Here, they state their case...



BUSHRANGERS WERE CRIMINALS

Greg Powell says: The French writer **Jean Cocteau** famously stated: “What is history after all? History is facts that become lies in the end; legends are lies which become history in the end.”

So how can we determine the truth about our bushrangers? Should we admire or revile them? Were they cold-hearted criminals or misunderstood victims of their times?

As historians, we have certain tools available to help us understand the past. One of these is the study of the artefacts that have passed down to us from those times. In the case of bushrangers, I’d argue that the artefacts that are most relevant are headstones and testimonial presentations where the people who lived through the bushranging terror still speak to us through their inscriptions. These contemporary words do not spare the contempt that our pioneers felt when referring to the ‘bushranging menace’, nor their admiration for those who opposed them.

So what did contemporary citizens think of the bushrangers: legends or criminals? The artefacts give us the best clues. These insights should determine our modern way of defining the bushrangers.

After 21-year-old storekeeper **John Graham** was shot down by a member of the Jewboy Gang on a street in Scone, New South Wales in 1840 his employer, **Thomas Dangar**, installed a plaque in St Thomas’ Church. The wording relates the feelings of the time, noting that John ‘*was cut off by a lawless gang of seven bushrangers who maliciously shot him whilst in the conscientious defence of his master’s property. Six of these unhappy men suffered for their crime, the extreme penalty of the law in Sydney.*’

With the capture and execution of the Jewboy Gang, some residents of the district of Scone presented Magistrate **Edward Deny Day** with a silver dinner service. The entrée dish on which the meal was served is inscribed ‘*as a testimonial of admiration of the*

promptitude and gallantry displayed in following and capturing a band of bushrangers which had for some months infested the district of the Hunter.’

The sentiment was also reflected on tombstones. Following **John Hume**’s death at the hands of bushrangers at Gunning in 1840, his brothers — including the explorer **Hamilton Hume** — inscribed on his tomb that he had been ‘*barbarously murdered at Gunning whilst rendering assistance to his neighbours to capture a party of bushrangers headed by the notorious Whitten. He left a widow and nine young children to bewail his loss. Aged 39 years.*’

We grew up hearing about bushrangers; few hear about their opponents.

Arguably, our most famous bushranger hunter was Senior Sergeant **Andrew Cleary** of the Bourke Police. Following his relentless pursuit of bushrangers across vast outback plains, including the capture of **Frank Pearson**, the prominent citizens of Bourke presented him with an illuminated presentation certificate and purse of coins in 1868. ‘*We wish to express our appreciation of the valuable service that you have to not only this District but the Colony in general*’, it read. ‘*Your unflinching determination and bravery when in pursuit of Armed Bushrangers has excited in us the highest admiration and it would afford us great pleasure to see you promoted.*’

After the three policemen who were shot at the hands of **Ned Kelly** at Stringybark Creek in 1878 were buried in Mansfield Cemetery, an impressive monument was erected by subscription from the inhabitants of Victoria and New South Wales, in Mansfield’s main street: ‘*To the memory of three brave men who lost their lives while endeavouring to capture a band of armed criminals.*’ The monument was erected during the time that the gang was still at large with no mention of the name of the gang.

When **Ben Hall**, **John Gilbert** and **John O’Meally** attacked Goimbla homestead in 1863, the owners Mr and Mrs **Campbell** fought back and O’Meally was shot dead. In recognition of the couple’s bravery and property loss, the public raised £1,100 and gave them a sterling silver table centre-piece, ►

Left An 1870 engraving of the capture and death of Fred Ward, aka Captain Thunderbolt. Courtesy State Library of Victoria, ID IAN18/06/70/116.

'presented by the colonists of Australia in admiration of their gallant conduct in repelling the attack of the bushrangers.'

Mrs Campbell was also singled out to receive a tall electro-plated coffee urn, inscribed: *'The ladies of upper and middle Adelong present this token of esteem to Mrs Campbell in appreciation of her heroic conduct displayed during the attack at Goimbla by bushrangers'.*

And that wasn't all. Accompanying the coffee urn was a silk cloth bearing a printed testimony, which defiantly decried the bushrangers: *'in assisting your worthy husband in defending your lives and property from attack by bushrangers, which resulted in the death of one of the band of villains ... you have made the whole colony your debtors.'*

These are just a few examples taken from the many victim artefact records that still exist. In my mind, our ancestors' words leave us in no doubt as to how we should view the bushrangers today.

✱ *Greg Powell has written four books on bushranger sites, including Ned Kelly Country, and six on bushwalking.*

BUSHRANGERS AS FOLK HEROES

Carol Baxter says: It seems astonishing that a largely law-abiding society would eulogise criminals as heroes. So why did this happen? Let's explore this question through a case study example.

Of all the bushrangers celebrated as folk heroes, it is not surprising that **Frederick Ward** alias Captain Thunderbolt was among them. In his youth, Fred epitomised all that was considered admirable in rural-born males, being considered so capable and reliable that, at the age of 11, he was employed to ferry a group of 'city folk' for 240 miles along the bushranger-plagued Great North Road. A decade later, however, this son of a convict received a 10-year sentence for possessing stolen horses and was sent to the hellish Cockatoo Island penal settlement.

Fred worked hard and behaved well. Four years later, he received a ticket-of-leave to Mudgee. After escorting his lover, **Mary Ann Bugg**, to her Dungog family for their baby's birth, he missed his quarterly muster. He eventually arrived at



Mudgee's police station on a 'stolen' horse. Despite evidence that it was a runaway horse, Fred was returned to Cockatoo Island to serve the remaining six years of his first sentence plus another three.

Meanwhile, the parole system had been abolished for the newly convicted. Fred had to work alongside those whose hard work would still be rewarded. Prison riots and government promises failed to change the law. In 1863, Fred and a companion became the only successful escapees from Cockatoo Island.

Their first known bushranging exploit involved stealing food from a shepherd's wife. They allayed her fears by saying that they wouldn't molest her, that they only wanted food and arms. "We merely rob the rich and not the poor," they told her. And, in that moment, a legend was born.

Graham Seal's *The Outlaw Legend* (Cambridge University Press, 1996) provides a list of the factors that produce an outlaw hero. First, the outlaw hero should be a victim of injustice. To Fred's community, to be thrown into gaol for borrowing a runaway horse was injustice indeed. Seal also reports that it helps if the outlaw is a victim of oppression. The conditions on Cockatoo Island along with the government's refusal to reward hard work and its failure to honour its promises spoke of political oppression.

Seal's list includes another three obligations that the pair met in their first bushranging exploit. They were courteous to women; they did not commit acts of unjustified violence; and they robbed the rich rather than the poor. Ward was brave and courageous, eluding the police by extraordinary acts of horsemanship or through trickery and deception. Such were his abilities that a magistrate

Above An engraving from 1865 illustrating the police chase of bushranger John Gilbert, as a family looks on in the background. Courtesy State Library of Victoria, ID IAN24/06/65/8.

recommended he be pardoned and employed as a police instructor.

Most bushrangers did not become folk heroes. Among them were the **Clarke** brothers, who killed four constables sent to stop their rampages. Society imposed its own moral values on their heroes. The Clarke brothers failed the moral test but the ‘gentleman bushranger’, as Fred was nicknamed, passed muster.

But why did colonial society need bushranger heroes? The tale of the archetypal outlaw hero, Robin Hood, tells of a community suffering injustice and oppression with no recourse to the law to ease its suffering. Tension-riddled societies often spawn outlaw heroes who become the community’s avenging force against its oppressors. New South Wales in the 1860s — the time of the bushranging epidemic — was one such society.

The colony’s penal origins were still impossible to ignore. Convicts and their families retained a distrust of authority and its police enforcers. Additionally, a chasm continued to separate the families of convicts from those of free settlers.

Naturally, many in the colonial elite had no desire for social change. They wanted docile workers to exploit. So they resisted broadening the access to education and the vote. And the ranks of dissatisfied rural workers were burgeoning because of ill-conceived land selection laws enacted in the early 1860s. As they say, my enemy’s enemy...

Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that the rural community supported the bushrangers by feeding them, hiding them and sending the police on wild-goose chases. It offered them a sense of empowerment, a silent voice of protest. And when a bushranger triumphed over authority because of his supremacy as a horseman and bushman — their own unique skillset — he was indeed worthy of being eulogised as a hero. 🐾

✳️ *Carol Baxter is the author of several history and genealogy books including Captain Thunderbolt and His Lady. Visit carolbaxter.com and for a review of her latest book, Black Widow, turn to page 54*

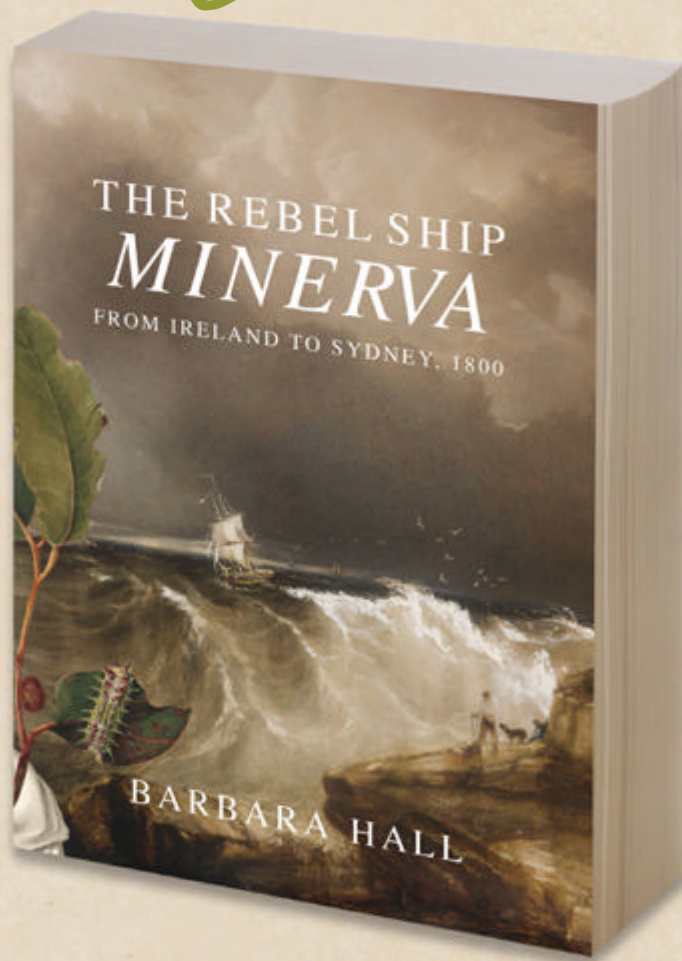
Below An 1855 cartoon of a bushranger robbing a traveller. Courtesy State Library of Victoria, ID MP00/00/56/21.



Have your say

What do you think about bushrangers and their place in Australian history? Join the discussion on our Facebook page at facebook.com/insidehistorymagazine

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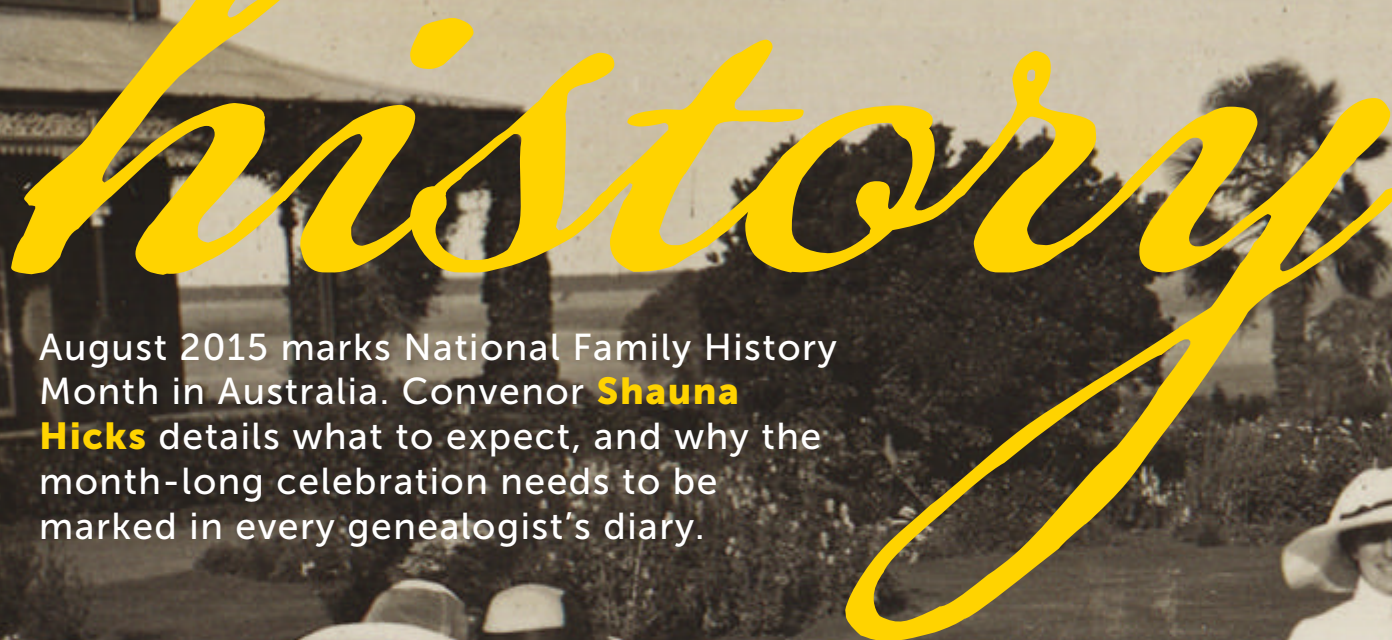


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30 DAYS OF FAMILY



history

August 2015 marks National Family History Month in Australia. Convenor **Shauna Hicks** details what to expect, and why the month-long celebration needs to be marked in every genealogist's diary.

FOR INDIVIDUALS researching their family history, National Family History Month (NFHM) is a great opportunity to participate in events happening in your town, suburb or even your street. In recent years there's been a variety of online events as well.

For genealogy and family history societies, it's a time to promote your society to the hundreds of thousands of people across Australia who are researching their genealogy and family history and to help them understand the social context within which their ancestors lived. Reports from previous years indicate that many societies gain new members during August while participating in NFHM activities.

NFHM is an initiative of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO). NFHM has been an annual event since August 2006 when it was celebrated during the first week of August. Due to its ever increasing popularity, NFHM was increased to the whole month of August from 2013. ▶



JOIN IN THE NFHM FUN

Societies do not need to be a member of AFFHO to participate. Anyone can take part, and you don't need to organise a special 'one-off' event. Participation can be as simple as calling your August monthly meeting a NFHM meeting, or one of your library open days a NFHM open day and entering the event onto the calendar at the NFHM website. Or you can organise a special event such as a book launch, seminar, beginners session or anything else associated with genealogy and family history.

Archives and libraries are also welcome to participate in NFHM. By adding your events to the calendar many more people will see your family history activities and help to make them even more successful. Many archives and libraries are regular hosts of NFHM events in August but it would be wonderful if there were even more.

Individuals can see what's happening near them by visiting the events page for their state and then checking for their postcode, but also check surrounding postcodes because

some events may be worth the travel time. Remember, too, that there are online events that you can do in the comfort of your own home.

NFHM has some great sponsors and in 2015 our major sponsors are AFFHO (affho.org) and Ancestry (ancestry.com.au). The National Archives of Australia (naa.gov.au) is again the launch sponsor. In addition there are numerous prize sponsors who have donated prizes for both societies and individuals, including *Inside History* magazine.

Genealogy and family history societies with events in the NFHM web calendar are automatically entered into the prize draw. Individuals can enter from 1 August 2015 until 27 August and the prize draw will be on 29 August 2015. Please see the NFHM home page for terms and conditions and the sponsors page for details of all the prizes and sponsors. 🍷



To find or list an event, or show your support on the NFHM Facebook page, visit familyhistorymonth.org.au

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The Corrector:

An insider's guide to Trove





Image Courtesy State Library of Victoria, ID H86.76/42.

You've probably never heard of **John Warren**. But if you're a devotee of Trove and its ever-growing collection of digitised historic newspapers, chances are you owe John and his fellow correctors more than you may realise! **Sarah Trevor** chats to John, the site's top-ranked corrector, about all things Trove.

IN THE past six years, John Warren has corrected a staggering 3.26 million lines of newspaper articles in the electronically translated text on Trove. Yes, 3.26 million. Here, he shares his tips on searching and editing Trove, so you too can help improve the site for your fellow Trove tragics — one line of newspaper at a time.

What originally inspired you to start editing Trove articles?

In September 2009 a distant relative discovered an article on Trove about the murder of my great grandfather.

There had been rumours for many years about this, but there had been no proof until the newspapers were digitised and all of a sudden there were dozens of entries available from all over Australia. It was a very gruesome murder and thus the arrest and trial attracted much publicity.

Once I got started I found all relevant articles on my family, and eventually just graduated to generally editing articles relevant to family history research.

How has Trove helped you research your own family history?

Trove has helped me add hundreds of people to my tree, as well as fill in ►

dates and places for events that were missing. My 2 x great grandfather **George Martyr** was a station manager for the MacArthurs at Redlands, in the Goulburn area. He put entries in the newspapers on the birth of each child, or marriage, and there were many obituaries and death notices. All of these added much to the somewhat flimsy information that was available through BDM records, which give you generally just the place of registration (not the actual place where the event took place), and the year or quarter in which the event was registered.

Trove has also enabled family members who have noticed my editing to get in touch with me, and thus establish contact with branches of the family

where prior contact had not been made. For example, I've met a cousin from Indonesia involved in tiger conservation, and a relative in America doing extensive research on several branches of the Martyrs who extended my family tree back several centuries.

Could you explain the process of correcting Trove articles?

For me the process is simple. I select a newspaper to edit, and then I edit every article in that paper I can find that deals with weddings, funerals, obituaries and deaths in general.

The first step involves finding the entries. For many this will be just a search for the relevant family member they may be looking for, like "Mr C J Warren" or "John Warren", and perhaps restricting the search to either just "Family Notices" or also to include "Articles".

The search can produce a few items, or thousands of entries. They are listed 20 to a screen, and if there are more than 2,000 items in the search, only the first 100 screens (20 per screen) will be available.

You edit the item by first clicking on the entry in the list, and then clicking on 'Edit'. Then look for mistakes in the transcription. I use the mouse to highlight the incorrect item, and then overtype with the correction. Repeat the process for each line.

Sometimes, you will find that a whole line (or more) is missing, and in this case you just add it to the end of the last line. You will be asked "click to add missing text" once the end of the line is detected.

Do you focus on editing any particular papers, regions or types of articles on Trove?

Early on, after doing the 20 years or so of the *Sydney Morning Herald* BDM entries, I did some of the regional papers in areas like Launceston, Murray Bridge, Broken Hill, and some Victorian regional papers, as I felt that these also deserved some attention, not only the major cities.

I was born in Orange, New South Wales. So when many of the Central West papers became available, I switched to editing them, and by now I had moved away from purely

SMART STRATEGIES FOR USING AND CORRECTING TROVE

A holistic approach

I edit whole papers at a time. The benefit of this approach is that you soon get to know the place names and many of the family names, so editing scanned articles become much easier as you can often fill in missing text.

Consider name variants

Quite often the spelling of names is not so accurate. Also, the papers so often only refer to a person by their nickname, and sometimes a married woman is only referred to by the initials or name of her husband.

Open vs restricted searches

My maternal grandmother was a Martyr, which is a difficult name to search for. This is when I use quote marks and restrict the search to "Mr G Martyr", for example, and search New South Wales papers. But generally I do an open search to begin with covering all newspapers.

Know your article type

Many newspapers have an article titled "Personal", and this covers all the news about people, whether it be illness, death, births or weddings. If you're looking for a specific birth, death or marriage, you can restrict the search to just "Family Notices" or also to include "Articles".

Don't forget advertisements

Be aware that in many cases relevant entries can be found under "Advertisements" because they were missed by the people setting up the categories. This particularly applies to Funeral Notices.

BDM records to editing mainly wedding and obituary articles, and also articles covering deaths generally.

So far I have completed editing of papers for places like Carcoar, Molong, Wellington, Young, Cowra, Forbes, Dubbo, and also the *National Advocate* in Bathurst, as well as the 11 years of the *Orange Leader* that so far have been scanned (1912–22).

For the past 15 months you've been linking every Trove entry to a corresponding Ancestry one. How is this done?

As a paying member of Ancestry I have the ability to search Ancestry records for births, deaths and marriages, as well as other categories. It was in February 2014 that it occurred to me that I could add significantly to my Trove editing if I linked entries for weddings and deaths to the corresponding entries on Ancestry. This then opens up Trove to many Ancestry users who otherwise may not have known of the site.

I certainly have had many appreciative messages from Ancestry users since I started this, and assisted some of them in furthering their research. I was able to find a sketch of one of the early pastors for a user who was desperate for just such an article.

Thus, when I am editing Trove, I have at least two tabs open for Ancestry, one for the Australian Marriage Index, and one for the death/cemeteries Index. Depending on the Trove item, I take the name from it and then search for that name in the corresponding Ancestry index. In Ancestry, I will generally set the year of the event (say 1915), and the place (say Orange), and then enter the name. If it is "Mrs Warren", then all I can search on is the surname "Warren".

This will generally be sufficient, but in many instances the death will be recorded as Sydney, and I may find three Warren deaths in Sydney suburbs in 1915 for females, and unless the Trove article gives the father's name or initials, it will be impossible to find the relevant article. Assuming that I can, I add a comment on the Ancestry entry by quoting the link to Trove using the cite facility. I also add the name of the paper, and the date of the article. For weddings



I add the "comment" to both the bride and groom's entries on Ancestry.

Since Ancestry recently added the World War I entries, I now have three open tabs, including the one for World War I records. I have added extensive comments from the *Orange Leader* and the *National Advocate* from Bathurst to these.

I try to add entries starting from the reports of enlistment and farewell, to promotions, to their letters home, to the official notification of death or returned wounded and so on. In some cases I have added up to 30 comments to an individual who was prolific in writing home. This has been particularly pleasing, and I am in the process of re-working all the *Leader* articles for 1915–19 to pick up on these World War I entries. I am still doing them now, being almost through to the end of 1916.

How many hours would you spend on Trove in the average week?

Probably 40 or more at least — I 'work' hard at something I enjoy doing. With all the talk of older people volunteering their time, I thought that this is what I would like to do as my volunteering effort. I have worked with computers for 50 years now, first getting involved in 1965 at the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra. I get a lot of pleasure out of what I do. I also learn a lot about the people who helped build our country, and many of the articles, particularly the obituaries, are very moving. 🐉

Half Sailor, Half Soldier

The Australian Navy's experience in World War I may have touched fewer families than that of the AIF, but the stories, sacrifices and hardships of those who served are no less brave. In this extract from *In All Respects Ready*, author **David Stevens** reflects on the importance of the 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train a century ago at Gallipoli.

AE2'S LOSS did not conclude the Australian Navy's Gallipoli involvement; but neither was the unit thereafter representing the RAN typically naval. On 6 October 1915, **Captain Charles Bean**, then an official press representative with the AIF, walked through the Allied trenches to Suvla Bay, about four miles north of Anzac Cove, and the scene of the last major landing of the Dardanelles campaign. The operation, which sought primarily to establish a supply base for Allied forces north of Cape Helles, had taken place two months before, and Bean for the first time intended to talk with what he termed 'a tiny offshoot of the Australian navy'.

The day had not been a good one for the correspondent, having been arrested by British troops at first unwilling to recognise his pass. But he had persevered and at last reached the beach at Suvla, where he spent the night having a 'long

yarn' with **Lieutenant Commander Leighton Bracegirdle**, commander of the impressively titled 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train (RANBT). Bean wrote up the unit's unusual story over the next few days, and it appeared in the Australian papers about six weeks later. In his inimitable fashion, the last paragraph accurately summed up both the bridging train's achievements and its predicament:

There they are today in charge of the landing of a great part of the stores of a British army. They are quite cut off from their own force; they scarcely come into the category of the Australian force, and scarcely that of the British; they are scarcely army and scarcely navy. Who it is that looks after their special interests and which is the authority that has the power of recognising any work that they have done, I do not know.

If you want to see the work you only have to go to Kangaroo Beach, Suvla Bay, and look around you. They have made a harbour.

The RANBT began landing at Suvla during the early morning of 7 August 1915. Under heavy enemy fire, the Australians discharged their equipment and set to work building a landing pier before the unloading had even been completed. On 9 August they were tasked with building a pontoon pier for the evacuation of the wounded, and claimed a record after erecting a 'pier 120 yards long on a sea coast under shell fire in 20 minutes'. Five minutes after completion it was in use. The pontoons were never designed for an open coast, and these and other piers were later replaced by more permanent structures. The RANBT's naval tasks soon expanded to include the maintenance of water supplies to the landing force, the disembarkation of troops and stores, and the provision of salvage services. Working closely with the army, Bracegirdle also established and controlled ordnance dumps, erected magazines, dugouts and galleys, and supplied certain specialist ratings. The whole of the work took place within sight of Turkish observers, and the unit eventually suffered more than 60 casualties (two fatal) to shrapnel and injury. Sickness killed another two, and many more spent at least some time hospitalised, the percentage increasing as time went on.

During his time at Gallipoli, Bean had begun identifying what he believed were the Australian soldier's unique character traits and, during his interview with Bracegirdle, was heartened to hear that Australia's sailors had '*taken their luck when it fell against them in a way that has become familiar at Anzac*'. In his despatch home, Bean made a point of retelling the story of **Able Seaman Driver Colin Atkinson** who, after losing his right leg to a Turkish shell, had sat up in hospital and asked the doctor for a cigarette. "Well, doctor," he said, "I'll have to sell peanuts now in Little Bourke Street." Similar vignettes permeated all Bean's front-line writing, and still influence the way most Australians see their military history. But after months of living rough, it became far harder to make light of frequent bad weather, extreme cold and exposure to enemy fire. A better understanding of the challenges daily facing the RANBT are revealed in a letter Bracegirdle sent in early November to his friend, **Lieutenant Rowland Bowen**:

Just a few lines, for in Hell one does not have either the time or the facilities for private correspondence. I have been through very severe times since our landing ... and now neither a 11" shell or a bomb from a Taube [German aircraft] can put me off my humble tucker, but Lord how fed up one gets living underground like a filthy hog. It's all in the game, but it's a hard game old chap, a terribly ►

Above The Australian submarine AE2, which penetrated the Dardanelles on the day of the Gallipoli landing. Courtesy State Library of Victoria, ID H91.325/2345.

hard one. We have done well, very well and I have been congratulated on same both by the Admiral [**Rear Admiral Arthur Christian**] & General [**Lieutenant General Julian Byng**]. We are attached to a British Army Corps for which I am duly thankful as you can well guess, and the RN here have been most kind & sing our praises very high indeed. I don't want another show like this old chap. If I do it will be with another 1st Lieut and other junior officers. Poor old Bond [**Lieutenant Thomas Bond**] is not & never was fit for Executive Officer as you know, but I did not have a say in his appointment. [**Sub-Lieutenant Reginald**] **Buller** & [**Sub-Lieutenant Charles**] **Hicks** I did appoint, but both are helpless, especially Hicks who is just the limit.

I have asked the NB [Naval Board] through the Admiral here, for another Lieut. and 2 more Subs for it is heavy work especially when two are sick at a time. I smashed up my left leg on a reef one night late in September & had to walk with a stick for 4 weeks but never went sick for one day. My work is half Naval & half Royal Engineer. I have a trawler manned entirely by my men, had Buller in charge for a few days but changed him for CWO [**Chief Warrant Officer Alexander**] **Cameron**.

I salvaged a big motor lighter (twin screw) the other day. She had gone ashore on a reef during a gale, & I had to work at night on her as the enemy used to shell me during the day. They tried it at night too but could not hit a hay stack for nuts. I suppose no matter what I do here there is no chance of promotion by the NB although I hear almost daily of Australian military fellows down South at Anzac being promoted to high rank.

Bracegirdle would not be promoted commander until 1 April 1917, just after leaving the RANBT, and although he did receive regular reinforcements, administrative troubles remained a feature of his command time. Having divested responsibility to the AIF, the Board evinced little close interest and, as **Captain Arthur Gordon-Smith** would

later remark, the unit became 'nobody's child'. The RANBT's reputation, however, was unsurpassed, and in an early draft of his history **Arthur Jose** went so far as to describe it as 'the most useful and most characteristically Australian force that served in the Great War'. Certainly, the unit earned renown for its reliability and talent for improvisation, and formal recognition included some 20 awards for bravery or good service. Further cementing their place in the Gallipoli story, on 20 December 1915, a detachment of 50 ratings under Sub-Lieutenant Hicks were the last Australians to evacuate from the peninsula.

Troop and equipment reductions began at Suvla on the night of 10–11 December, until after a week there remained just 19,500 men and 28 artillery pieces. One of Hicks' detachment, **Able Seaman Driver Herbert Bowden**, recalled his final hours at Suvla in a letter home:

... we were waiting anxiously to know if the Turks had any news of the evacuation, we thought we had been

Sources for researching the RAN

Among the many difficulties facing Arthur Jose, author of the naval volume in Charles Bean's World War I official history series, the most serious was inadequate records, particularly those relating to Australian service with the Royal Navy. Almost a century later, primary sources are more plentiful, while digitised resources have made the information far easier to find.

The most important collections of overseas operational records are held by The National Archives in London under ADM/137. Although some copies are held by the Australian War Memorial, particularly in AWM36 and AWM39, these are often extracts rather than the full text. For records concerning maritime operations in the Australian area and naval administration, the best resource is the National Archives of Australia repository in Melbourne, particularly the various collections of Navy Office correspondence.

Personal papers are more scattered among institutions in Australia and overseas, but good collections of naval diaries are held by the Australian War Memorial, the State Library of NSW, and the Australian National Maritime Museum. Finally, mention should be made of the Sea Power Centre — Australia (SPC-A) in Canberra. In addition to official policy documents, SPC-A holds personal papers, ship histories and an extensive image collection.

found out when they started about 10 o'clock with shrapnel ... and not a man could put his head up on the surface, and our dugout was only 15 yards from the shore end of the bridge we had put up. One shell went through the bridge and you can tell how the boys felt, because that had to be repaired so as the guns and troops could go off, and everything went up in the air. The next shell just missed the bridge again, and we got wet through, through the spray of water which went up 300 feet in the air, and rained all over our dugout. That was the nearest of the big shells which we were getting at the rate of one every two minutes for five hours, so you can tell how our nerves were getting, not counting the small 18 pounder shrapnel that was playing around all the time ... they got 2 in our dugout and seven men in it, one got concussion of the brain, one hit in the arm, another got two pellets in the back, and several minor injuries ... The bridge was mended in two hours, which got a good word for the boys from the General in charge of the evacuation.

As soon as darkness came on the men started to leave the trenches, and at 10-30pm there was only about 30 men holding the line. At 1-30am every man left the line ... By 3 o'clock all these men had been sent off, and that left only 3 or 4 Engineers who had to fire the mines and Headquarters, and us 50. At 4-30 we all got in the lighter and everyone got off safely ...

Bracegirdle, with his own party of 60 men, had destroyed everything of value before they left Kangaroo Beach earlier that morning. Hospitalised on arrival at Mudros, he did not rejoin the RANBT



until 31 January 1916. Lieutenant Bond, taciturn, significantly older and known as 'Granny' to the ratings, assumed command in his absence, and Bracegirdle returned to find the unit in crisis. Owing to the RANBT's unusual status, the receipt of pay had been a constant concern since leaving Australia, and at the time of their evacuation the men had seen no money for seven weeks. Poorly provisioned and unable to purchase any comforts, the men's discontent grew. On the morning of 13 January most of the junior ratings considered themselves on strike and refused to fall in. Eventually Bond classified 189 as mutineers and had them placed under arrest. A first investigation blamed the men, but a second, conducted by Bracegirdle when he returned to the unit, found that pay had been the sole point of contention and that poor leadership had exacerbated the issue. Bracegirdle reported his findings to the C-in-C East Indies, **Rear Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss**, who, after a short deliberation, decided to address the accused men who, after three weeks, were still under guard and confined to camp:

They were drawn up in a line without arms for my inspection and seldom have I seen a finer body of men or one that looked less like mutineers. A square was formed and I addressed them, pointing out the stupidity of their action and the grave interpretation which might well be ►

Above West Beach, Suvla, Gallipoli. The 1st Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train is here placing an old hulk in position to act as an outer breakwater for the boat docks. Although organised along army lines, the RANBT's members were proud to retain naval ranks and ratings. They wore khaki uniform, complete with slouch hat, but replaced the AIF's rising sun badge with a fouled anchor insignia. Courtesy AWM, ID P01326_008.



placed on it. Their expression plainly indicated anxiety, and when I told them that I considered the disgrace of their having been under arrest was in itself sufficient punishment and the incident was now over ... their relief was almost audible and became quite so when the parade was dismissed, for in reply to a demand from a sergeant for three cheers for the Admiral, I found myself the object of an ovation from the so-called mutineers as embarrassing as it was mal à propos.

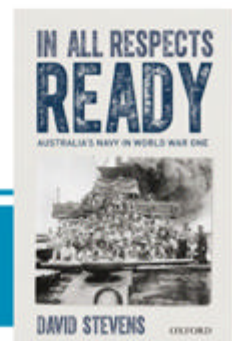
By this time the RANBT had moved to Ismailia on the Suez Canal, where it became heavily involved in bridge-building and the control of floating traffic. But as the Allies advanced into Palestine, active bridging work declined, and the RANBT tended towards employment in Egypt on wharves and port duties connected with military transport services. Important work still, but it could be done by civilian contractors, and by November 1916 Bracegirdle had made it known to the Board that his men wished to be sent to the actual fighting line or, failing that, used for manning ships. In December, Bracegirdle and a detachment of 50 men took part in the landing at El Arish and constructed a pier under fire, but this was

to be their last operation as a unit. Back in Melbourne wheels had begun to turn, and in March 1917 the RANBT received the news that it would be disbanded.

More than 200 RANBT officers and ratings returned to Australia in July for discharge or further naval service. Among those who remained in theatre, almost 130 transferred directly to the AIF, most for service in the artillery or infantry, and were sent to England. They joined another 94 men, whom Bracegirdle had allowed to transfer the previous year. Altogether, at least 25 of those transferred were to be killed in action or died of wounds. One, **Able Seaman Driver Henry Beach**, died as a private in the 24th Battalion at the Battle of Montbrechain on 5 October 1918, the AIF's last infantry action of the war. More fortunate was **Petty Officer Artificer Alfred Miles**, who joined the 4th Divisional Ammunition Column as a farrier sergeant, and won the Military Medal on 28 May 1917 for extinguishing an ammunition fire during the Battle of Messines. He returned safely to Australia in July 1918. 🐉

Above Three RANBT officers pictured outside the sandbagged dugout that acted as the Wardroom at Kangaroo Beach, Suvla Bay. From left: Staff Surgeon Edward Morris, Lieutenant Commander Leighton Bracegirdle and Lieutenant Thomas Bond. The remaining two officers are Captain McRitchie and Major Jellicoe. Courtesy AWM, ID P11155.007.001.

In All Respects Ready by David Stevens (Oxford University Press, \$59.95) is out now



REAR ADMIRAL SIR LEIGHTON SEYMOUR 'BRACE' BRACEGIRDLE

Despite never holding a seagoing appointment, Leighton Bracegirdle KCVO, CMG, DSO, RAN (1881–1970) had perhaps the most uniquely varied career of any Australian naval officer of his generation, serving in uniform for nearly 50 years and in four wars. Born in Sydney, he joined the New South Wales Naval Brigade as a cadet in 1898. Two years later he embarked as a midshipman with the naval contingent proceeding to China and the Boxer Uprising. Taking leave from the Brigade on his return to Australia, he became a lieutenant with the South African Irregular Forces during the final year of the Boer War. He returned to Australia after being wounded, and continued as a naval reservist. In 1911 he transferred to the permanent naval forces as a lieutenant, and served as Sub-District Naval Officer Newcastle, until the outbreak of war.

During his service with the AN&MEF, Bracegirdle received a promotion to acting lieutenant commander, and in December 1914 commanded an expedition of naval reservists to Madang. The men were to be used in support of the Sepik River expedition conducted by Commander Cumberland's destroyers but, with the failure to discover any German resistance, they were sent back to Australia in February 1915 at the expiration of their six months expeditionary service. Bracegirdle was thereafter to have become King's Harbour Master at Rabaul, but at this juncture the Naval Board offered him confirmation in rank and command of the RANBT. He accepted without hesitation, and his skills and character seemed perfectly matched for the role, maintaining harmony with both his army and naval masters by the simple expedient of ensuring that each was aware of what the other had requested. His professional flexibility seemed unlimited and, in addition to his RANBT command responsibilities, he was designated Beach Master at Kangaroo Beach.

Bracegirdle was not, however, immune to the mounting strain of more than four months living rough under fire, heightened during the final days at Suvla by the knowledge that any Turkish attack could not be repelled. Nor was the physical and mental toll on his health helped by his refusal to report sick owing to the exigencies of the position. Suffering from malaria and jaundice, he collapsed on the day of the evacuation and had to be carried into



Above Commander Leighton Bracegirdle in 1918 after serving in World War I. Courtesy AWM, ID P01326.011.

hospital. Bracegirdle received the DSO for his Gallipoli service in addition to a mention in despatches. Second and third mentions came during the RANBT's time in Egypt. Following his return to Australia he became a staff officer to Commodore Tickell, in the headquarters of the Auxiliary Services, then served post-war as DNO Adelaide and Sydney.

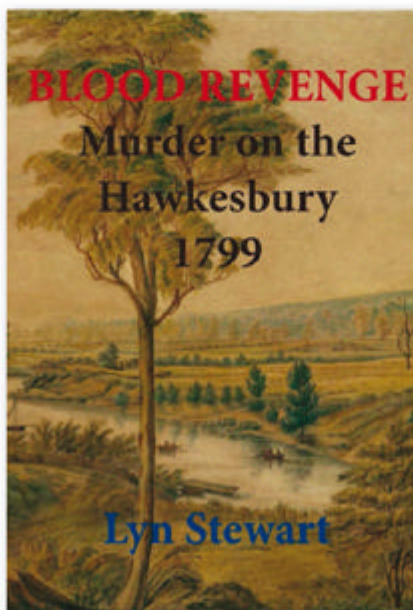
In 1923 Bracegirdle became Director of Naval Reserves and Reserve Mobilisation and honorary aide-de-camp to the Governor-General, and the following year was promoted captain. He continued in these roles until 1931 when appointed the Governor-General's military and official secretary and remained there until retirement in 1947. He had left the Navy on 31 May 1945, and received a promotion to Rear Admiral (Auxiliary Services) on the same day.

Bracegirdle's son Warwick joined the RAN College in 1925 and served with distinction as gunnery officer of the cruisers *Perth* (1939–41) and *Shropshire* (1942–45) and as commanding officer of the destroyer *Bataan* during the Korean War.

What we're *reading*

Our reviewers read as many new history books as time allows. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it... Here are some of our

For more reviews, visit Newtown Review of Books, [newtowncurrent](#) favourites.



***Blood Revenge: Murder on the Hawkesbury, 1799*
by Lyn Stewart (Rosenberg Publishing, \$29.95)**

In 1799, five white settlers from the Hawkesbury frontier were found guilty of killing two Aboriginal youths of the Darug nation in a court of law – but went unpunished.

This book, written by a descendant of the ostensible ringleader, **Edward Powell**, is a disturbing yet illuminating account of the murder, its context and the ensuing, historic, trial.

Extensively researched and thoughtfully written, *Blood Revenge: Murder on the Hawkesbury, 1799* examines life on the Hawkesbury frontier in the 1790s, and the complex relations (both friendly and violent) between the newly

settled families and local Indigenous groups.

Initially the book seems to explore the early colonial context perhaps overly thoroughly, particularly the tensions between **Governor Hunter** and Judge-Advocate **Richard Dore** – but by the final chapters the reader realises this is in fact crucial to answering the question of why the murderers got away with their crime.

Supported by painstaking reconstructions of the evidence, Stewart shows determination to confront this horrific deed her ancestor committed, and deep sympathy for all involved. An important book.

— SARAH TREVOR

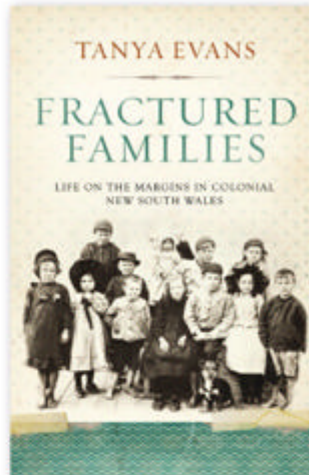


***Black Widow* by
Carol Baxter (Allen
& Unwin, \$29.99)**

Louisa Collins was an enigma. Brought to trial four times before she was found guilty of murdering two husbands, she was hanged in 1889. Executed at Darlinghurst Gaol, she achieved the dubious honour of being the last woman hanged in New South Wales. During her ordeal Louisa neither admitted her guilt nor professed her innocence.

Carol Baxter's in-depth analysis of the prosecution and trial of Collins makes for exciting and informative reading. Despite knowing the ending, Baxter maintains the reader's interest from start to finish. Beginning with Louisa's visit to **Dr George Marshall's** rooms in Sydney, to ask him to visit her husband because "He is no better", Baxter concludes with Louisa's botched execution. Louisa's crimes were discovered because of two extraordinary mistakes. Of these, taking her second husband to the same surgery that treated her first husband was inexplicable. Thoroughly researched and well written, this is an excellent example of historical narrative.

— CHRISTINE YEATS



***Fractured Families: Life on the Margins in Colonial New South Wales* by Tanya Evans
(NewSouth, \$39.99)**

Tanya Evans skilfully combines selected case histories of those relegated to the margins of society with an examination of the colony's local, urban and post-colonial history including that of Sydney's Benevolent Society — Australia's first charity. The result is a thoroughly readable and moving social history.

What sets this book apart is Evans' willingness to engage and work with family historians. Rather than viewing them as history's poor relations, Evans has instead drawn on their expertise — in the case of one family historian documenting his research journey — to add humanity to her work. She does so with integrity and insight, ensuring that the reader understands that she is drawing from the lives of real people — somebody's ancestors.

Evans also explores the differing ways our ancestors are memorialised, in one example, juxtaposing First Fleeter **William Hubbard**, who ended his days in the Benevolent Asylum, with the more fortunate King family. — CHRISTINE YEATS



***Royal Visits to Australia*
by Jane Connors (NLA
Publishing, \$39.99)**

There is nothing quite like a royal event to get everyone talking. In fact, for Queen Elizabeth's 1954 visit, a staggering 7 million people lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the newly crowned monarch (the population of the

country at the time was 9 million). In *Royal Visits to Australia*, Jane Connors looks at visits past and present — from the failed assassination attempt in 1867, to the tour of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and baby George in 2014.

Beautifully illustrated with photographs and ephemera from the National Library of Australia's collection, this is a fascinating look at regal visits and our own fascination with royalty. And of course, it's a social history of our communities as well, with amusing anecdotes and quotes from the time. Connors delves into her favourite stories with colour and flair, from the sexiest royal visitor ever (it was the Prince of Wales in 1920) to secret love letters to a mistress, and the three tonnes of gifts given to royal visitors in 1927. Chapters also include visitors from Iran, Tonga, Thailand and, of course, Denmark and Crown Princess Mary. — CASSIE MERCER

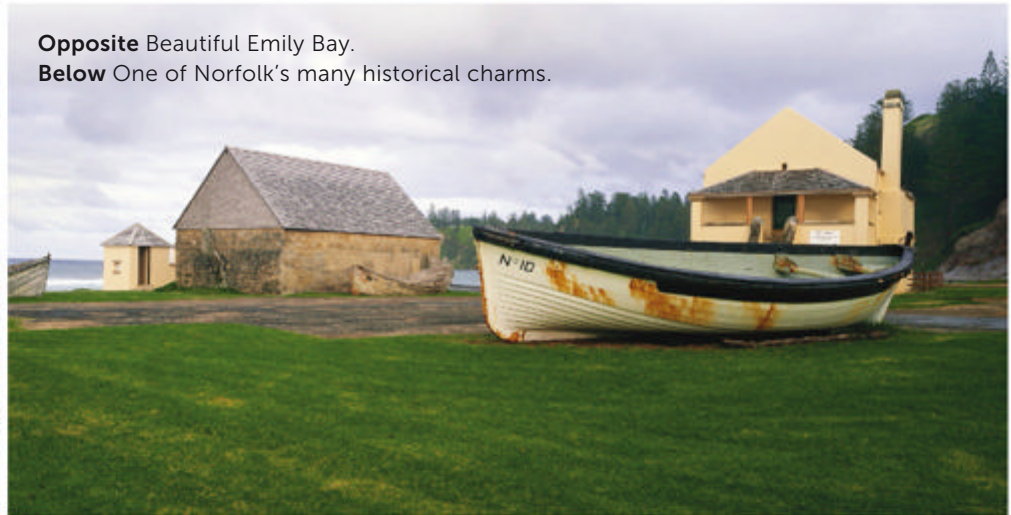
Norfolk's Secret past

A First Fleet shipwreck, Georgian-era convict settlement, and the infamous *Bounty* mutiny — there's no denying that Norfolk Island's heritage packs a punch. But as **Sarah Trevor** discovers, from the landscapes to the unique culture, there is so much more to the Norfolk story.



All photographs courtesy Norfolk Island Tourism.

Opposite Beautiful Emily Bay.
Below One of Norfolk's many historical charms.



THE FIRST realisation that Norfolk Island was not your average Australian island came before I'd even landed. "You're about to see us eat the last apple we'll eat until we come back to Australia," the gentleman confessed as he took the seat beside me, his friendly tone different from the usual vaguely strained civility of flight-neighbours.

To his right, his wife offered me her window seat several times, in between greeting seemingly every second or third person on the plane by name. Noticing the World War II flick on my screen, he asked if I had an interest in history.

"Well, you're certainly coming to the right place," he said. "Have you heard of Murderers' Mound?"

After an infamous riot, he said, a dozen or so convicts were hung — and, legend has it, purposely buried outside the cemetery in un-consecrated ground. A year or two ago, an archaeologist studied the mound using radar equipment, which confirmed that, indeed, at least 12 bodies were buried here. And then there were the historical surprises that hit closer to home.

"One year, many years ago, we had a New Year's Eve function and everyone was dancing," he said. "And the floor began to bounce up and down."

Strange. So a visiting archaeologist took a look. Not only did parts of their 1880s-built home date back to the island's first British settlement from 1788-1815 — but underneath their current living room they excavated a series of convict cells! And I was welcome to come by and take a look if I wanted.

Next thing I knew, he produced the prized apple and proved as good as his word, slicing the fruit into pieces.

"We can't have these on Norfolk," he explained. The island's isolated ecosystem demands one of the world's strictest quarantine regulations, so only potatoes, onions, garlic and ginger can be shipped in. Other fruits and veg are home grown. Virtually every Norfolk backyard features mini-plantations of bounties of fruit, as I'd later discover through yet more kind offerings (you could say it was a recurring theme). But no apples.

"It's the only thing we miss about Australia. We ate about three a day during our time in Sydney!" he said. "Would you like a piece?"

Yep. I had a feeling I was indeed coming to the right place. ►



Above One of Norfolk's heritage performances; Norfolk boasts many pristine beaches.

And, especially considering the island is only 35 square kms, what a place it is. Bumpy roads wind across rolling hills, by farms, along Cascade Pier, and scenic Mt Pitt. The ubiquitous Norfolk pines line up in proud rows just about everywhere.

The first sighting of Quality Row in historic Kingston feels as though you've stumbled across a 19th-century rural English village, complete with well-preserved Georgian-era buildings and nonchalant cows milling about as though they own the road (they do have right of way, I'm warned). But, beyond the orderly procession of quaint houses, convict-era ruins and World Heritage listed buildings lay a pleasant reminder that for all the quaint English countryside feel, this is a semi-tropical island — and has the aquamarine waters, sandy bays and laidback vibe to prove it.

And then there are the distinctly easygoing locals. I do my best to remember the unofficial road rule of the 'Norfolk wave' at passing drivers — in between dodging the wandering cows and the potholes. Many of the island's residents are Pitcairners, or descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers and their Tahitian wives. The legacy of this infamous *Bounty* mutiny is evident not only in the museums (and the absorbing, world-class Fletcher's Mutiny Cyclorama depicting the event), but also in the island's customs, food, crafts and dance. It's heard in the Norfolk language, a blend of the old English spoken by the 18th-century mutineers, and the Tahitian lexicon of the Pitcairners' foremothers. And it's evident in the striking faces of the Pitcairners themselves.

But my week on Norfolk is focused on a different, though no less historic

ship: I'm here to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the wrecking of the *Sirius*. The loss of this First Fleet flagship was a turning point in the early colony's fortunes, both here and at Port Jackson, and an hour or two spent in the small yet absorbing HMS *Sirius* Museum is a must for any self-respecting Australian history lover. (Or family historian with First Fleet links; it has a display wall for fellow descendants to remember their ancestors.)

For one thing, the collection of artefacts on display showcase the only surviving remnants of a First Fleet vessel. A massive anchor, hardy carronades, several navigational instruments and even a rare Spanish copper coin are among the treasures on show. All were recovered from the *Sirius* wreck during an 1980s archaeological excavation, a ground-breaking feat supported by the local community. Volunteer divers assisted the excavation under the surf — "it was like a washing machine," smiles one I meet, named Karlene — and there was an island-wide donation of ice cream containers to use in treating precious finds.

Perhaps best of all, the museum is just metres away from its resting place, in the sapphire waters by Slaughter Bay. Here, catastrophe played out as the ship's 1790 rescue mission came to a halt, wrecked on the shallow reef. It took two days to disembark the 324 people on-board, their belongings, precious navigational instruments and, of course, the grog. Diarists like **Ralph Clark** despaired at the sight of their possessions wading in the water (or claimed by convicts). The devastation to the colony's waning food supply was worse still. The nearby museum, and all its treasures, make it easy for my imagination to recreate these

harried scenes, and all the more touching to behold the darker shadows of the water where remains of the *Sirius* still lay.

The island brims with stories, and some of the most infamous relate to the second European penal settlement which, from 1825 to 1855, made Norfolk's name synonymous with brutality. Much of Kingston dates from this period, from the grand Government House and former barracks to the slightly eerie ruins of buildings where the convicts themselves once lived and worked.

Scenes of elegance await inside Government House, with its cedar and mahogany nautical furniture, and reproductions of historic events hanging on its walls. Open to public tours once a month to raise money for local charities, Government House is the official

residence of the island's Administrator (a representative of Australia's Commonwealth Government). On an unofficial behind-the-scenes tour of the building, I learn that many of its rooms have played the same role since it was built in 1829 (although its foundations date back to the previous settlement).

My unofficial tour guide, Matt Alexander, is originally from Sydney but works on the island as Commonwealth Heritage Manager. A few months into his role, he remains enthralled by the history.

"Most of the Australian World Heritage convict sites you go to, they're like a living museum," he says. "Whereas this site's still living. Even though it's not as it was in the convict period — with the Pitcairn culture and the Norfolk culture that's here now — it's still an alive site and it's unique in that respect."

One evening, at dusk, I see what he means as I explore the picturesque ruins. Locals relax by the beach nearby, beneath a sky streaked pink and purple. And I've got the former prisoners' barracks all to myself (a duck or two notwithstanding). Beside it, in the New Gaol, a crumbled maze of stone is all that remains of the former pentagonal prison where re-offenders were once isolated.

Most atmospheric of all though is the former crank mill. I descend the steep, half-crumbled set of stairs and duck my head to enter. Though roofless, as with most of the ruins, its intimidatingly tall walls, with empty slots in the sides, give a faint impression of

Below Scenic Slaughter Bay and part of Kingston.



FAST FACTS

Getting there

■ Air New Zealand is the only airline servicing the island, flying from Brisbane, Sydney and Auckland. airnewzealand.com.au

■ Remember that visitors require a valid passport and must pass through customs and quarantine.

Places to stay

■ Broad Leaf Villas are

boutique, 4-star villas with tropical touches. broadleafvillas.com

■ The Governor's Lodge is a historic property offering units across a range of accommodation levels. governorslodgeresort.com

Activities and attractions

■ Norfolk Island Museum runs four great museums: The Commissariat, The Pier Store,

No 10 Quality Row, and the HMS *Sirius* Museum. norfolkislandmuseum.com.au

■ Aata Orn: History in the Making, with Arthur Evans. <http://bit.ly/1JSYWoX>

■ Half-day Orientation Tour. pinetreetours.com

■ Phillip Island Day Tour. <http://bit.ly/1BgYoJs>

■ For more information, visit norfolkisland.com.au; norfolkislandtravelcentre.com



the sort of place it must have been for the convicts who produced mill in such cramped conditions. The screeches of the enormous man-powered cranks they turned could reportedly be heard from the other side of the island.

Its notoriety wasn't for nothing. Sydney judge **Sir Roger Therry** was shocked by the appearance of Norfolk Island convicts who appeared before his courtroom one day to give evidence: *'Their sunken glazed eyes, deadly pale faces, hollow fleshless cheeks and once manly limbs shrivelled and withered up as if by premature old age... There was not one of the six who had not undergone, from time to time, a thousand lashes each and more.'*

Wandering about the ridiculously scenic cemetery to the sound of crashing waves nearby, I peruse some surprisingly descriptive headstones. Etchings of disease, drownings and uprisings jump out, such as the free overseer *'barbarously murdered by a body of prisoners'* in 1846.

Yet recent research by an expert on this penal period, historian Tim Causer, suggests that this notoriety may in fact waver the line between fact and fiction. He has found that there is little evidence for certain gruesome stories and that the suicide lotteries, for instance, may be more myth than history.

And that's not the only long-held Norfolk story to be overturned. On a 'Living History' tour led by history enthusiast and proud Pitcairner Arthur 'Onion' Evans, we learn how history has disproven the ostensible inferiority of the Norfolk pine and flax plant for making masts. For starters, early European settlers used this timber to build their own ship, which was later confiscated and used by **Matthew Flinders** to circumnavigate Tasmania. And, as it turns out, Norfolk flax indeed produces a strong fibre, although it required a different processing method from its European counterpart — it was a case of the craftsmen blaming their tools, so to speak. How do I know this? I helped make some myself.

Arthur's hands-on demonstrations of the crafts and skills practised by Norfolk's residents throughout history is one of the unique parts of the tour. But its first port of call was the Kingston area, where he showed us some hidden gems we might

“There was not one of the six who had not undergone, from time to time, a thousand lashes each and more.”

have missed otherwise. A salt house, a brick kiln and, on the rugged edge of the land, beyond the arch of lively Emily Bay, the spot where convicts harvested lime from the reef. Here they'd toil for hours on end, sometimes in high tide, their leg irons eating into their ankles.

It's more than a mini-bus tour, we discover, as we arrive at his Arthur's farm where we're served tea and sandwiches. A tour of the property follows, including a private museum containing invaluable *Bounty* artefacts: the anvil of the ship, for starters, and the woven hat his great grandmother wore upon arrival on the island as a three-year-old girl.

When it comes to the Pitcairner settlement, Arthur's near encyclopaedic knowledge of Norfolk Island history becomes personal. The Pitcairners were originally granted the island by **Queen Victoria**, he says, because of their piety. "Britain held us up as the yardstick in the example of Christianity — apart from the mutiny," he says. "And that's after the Tahitian women on Pitcairn chopped the heads off four Polynesian men with axes."

There you go. In gratitude for granting them the island, *God Save the Queen* remains their anthem to this day, as I later learn among the *Bounty* artefacts and stories of the Pier Store Museum.

But the Pitcairner period isn't the only period Arthur is passionate about; he's on a mission to make locals and visitors alike rethink Norfolk history.

"I'm a Polynesian person," he says. "I might look like you, and I am, but inside I'm a Polynesian person. So I still cook my food in the ground. And my first language is the Norfolk language."

As a Polynesian, it irks Arthur that the period known as the 'First Settlement' is actually the first *British* settlement, when Pacific Islanders settled here hundreds of years earlier. He's pushing for a new



Above The sinking of HMS *Sirius* in 1790. Courtesy State Library of NSW, ID a3461022h.

terminology for the island's layers of history (instead of 'First', 'Second' and 'Third'). Instead, he proposes they be known as the Polynesian settlement, the colonial, the penal and the Pitcairn.

In fact, as I'm amazed to learn at the Commissariat Store museum, the Polynesian settlement was the longest on Norfolk (but not necessarily the largest). Long thought to have been temporary visitors, a 1999 archaeological excavation found that the Polynesian settlement likely spanned hundreds of years, between 800 and 1450 AD. The artefacts on display include fragments of obsidian and marine ivory, for instance, that could only have come from an island off New Zealand. It's yet another reminder that Norfolk's past is never as straightforward as it seems.

As the plane left Norfolk a week after it had brought me, and I looked over that glorious green speck in the Pacific, scattered with those iconic pines, my thoughts stayed with the island. Long billed as a paradise with a hellish history, there is so much more to explore. It's not the dark legends of Norfolk's past, the convicts, overseers and uprisings, that make it so compelling for the history lover. It's the fierce pride the islanders take in their history — and their eagerness to share it. It's in the way the history, from shipwrecks to convict cells to Polynesian remnants, remains utterly alive. ♡

✧ Sarah Trevor travelled as a guest of Norfolk Island Tourism.



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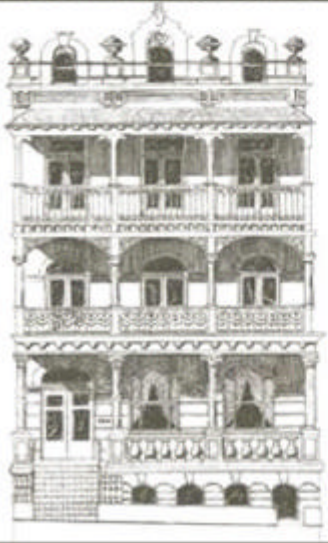
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One picture...

1,000 memories



THIS PHOTO shows my granddad, **Donald Francis Blackford**, participating in a 1947 performance of a play called *Blithe Spirit*, written and produced by the famous English playwright, composer, director and singer **Sir Noël Peirce Coward**. According to a summary of the play from **critterion.com**, its plot is based on “a novelist who cheekily invites a medium to his house to conduct a séance, hoping the experience will inspire a book he’s working on.” Donald was one of the actors in the play and appeared alongside the famous **Joan Simms**, best known for her roles in the *Carry On* franchise.

Donald became involved in plays such as this one after his demobilisation from the

British Air Force at the end of World War II, prior to beginning civilian work. He joined a repertory club, the Langdon Players, to get involved in plays, readings and music within the local community of Langdon Hills in Essex, England. At the time he was engaged to my nanna, **Mary Blackford**, who was also a member of the club.

After being demobilised by the British air force, Donald was issued with a demob uniform that many decades later Mary vividly remembered as “chickpea brown

with a trench coat and a terrible-looking trilby hat”. Upon sizing up the dilemma she was in — being seen with a respectable serviceman wearing such a terrible outfit — she suggested a good tailor and was insistent that Donald’s money be spent on a nice suit as a treat.

In 1969, they migrated to Australia, where Donald served as a priest in several parishes around Western Australia and Victoria for more than a decade. He died in 1995 of a heart attack while playing golf, the sport he loved.

— Ciaran Roche, Stony Creek, VIC

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